

MARVEL

DONNY CATES • RYAN STEGMAN • JP MAYER • FRANK MARTIN

1

LGY#166

VENOM

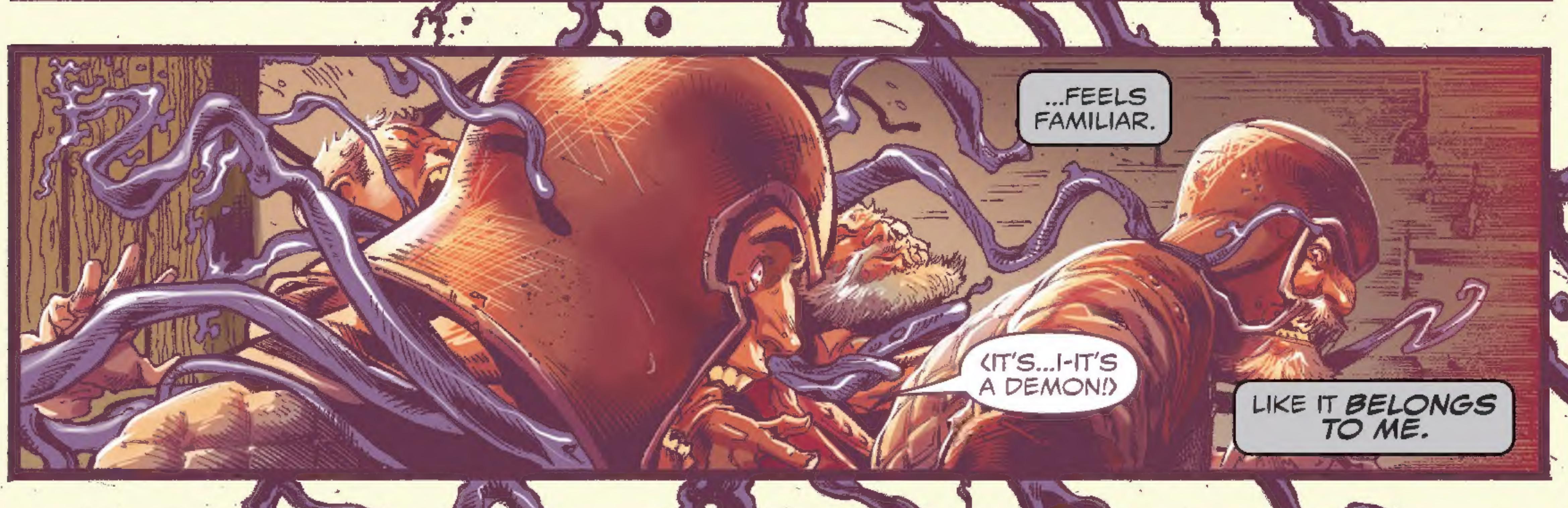
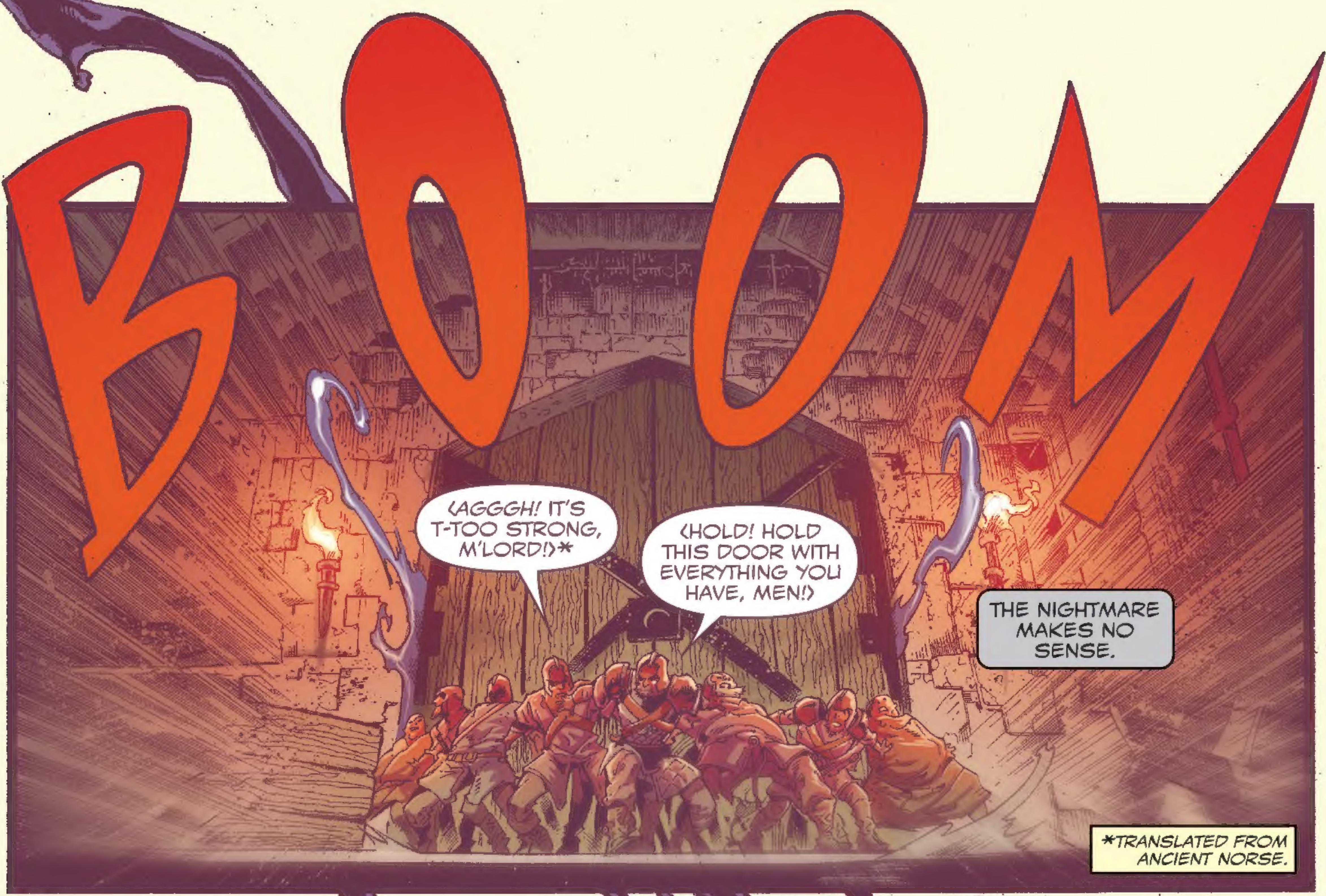


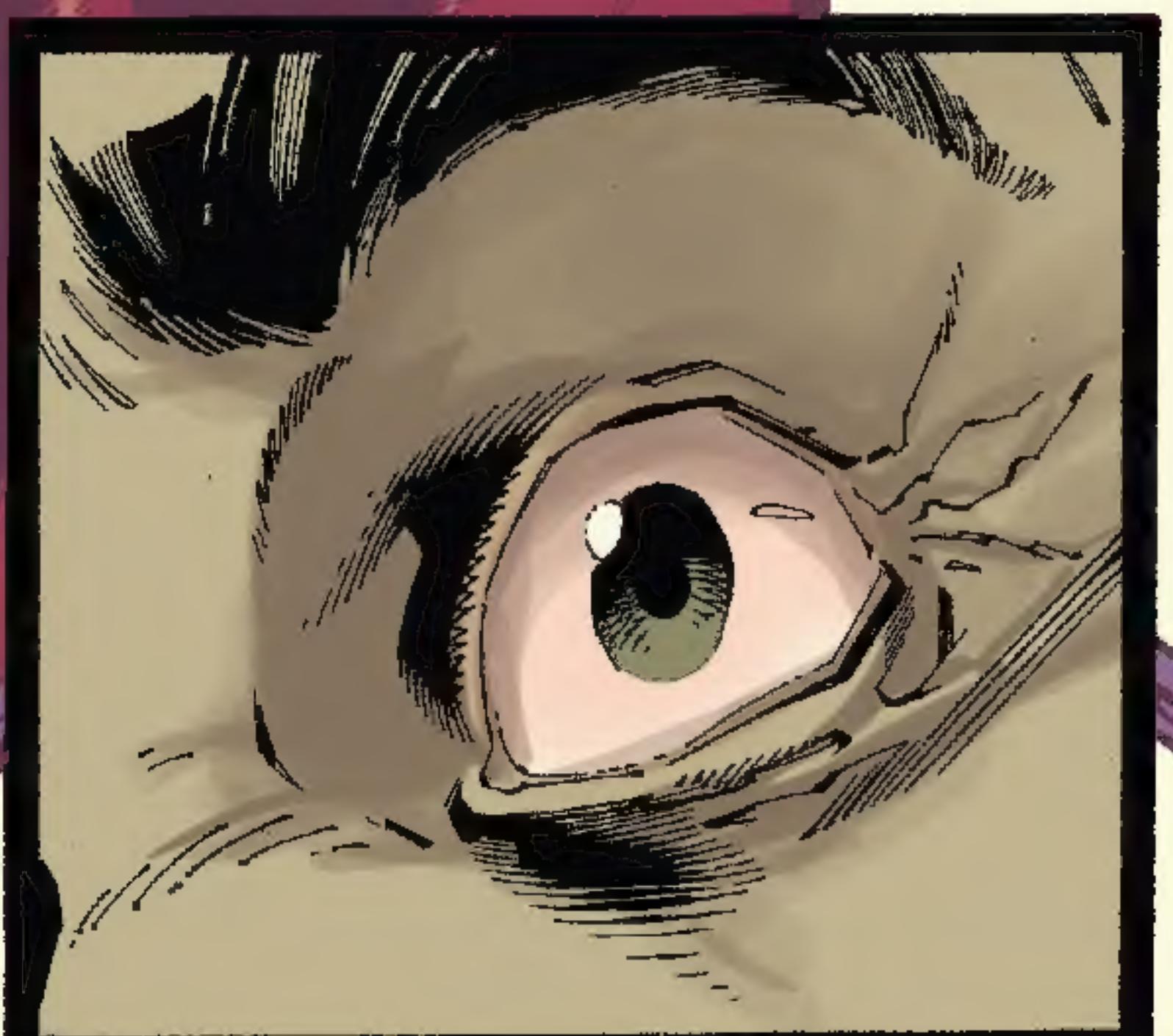
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00111



RYAN
STEGMAN





KRAKA - D00000M

NEW YORK.
NOW.

I WAKE
UP ALONE.

W-WHERE?
WHERE ARE
YOU?!

NO...NO,
NOT ALONE.

NEVER
ALONE.

HEY...
HEY, IT'S
OKAY...

IT'S JUST
THUNDER.
JUST LOUD, IS
ALL. NOTHING TO BE
AFRAID OF. NOTHING
IS GOING TO
HUR--

NOT
SCARED OF
STORM. YOU
SAW IT?

THE
MONSTER?

YEAH.
YEAH, I SAW
IT.

I--I DIDN'T
KNOW YOU
COULD HAVE
NIGHTMARES.

NEITHER
DID WE,
EDDIE.

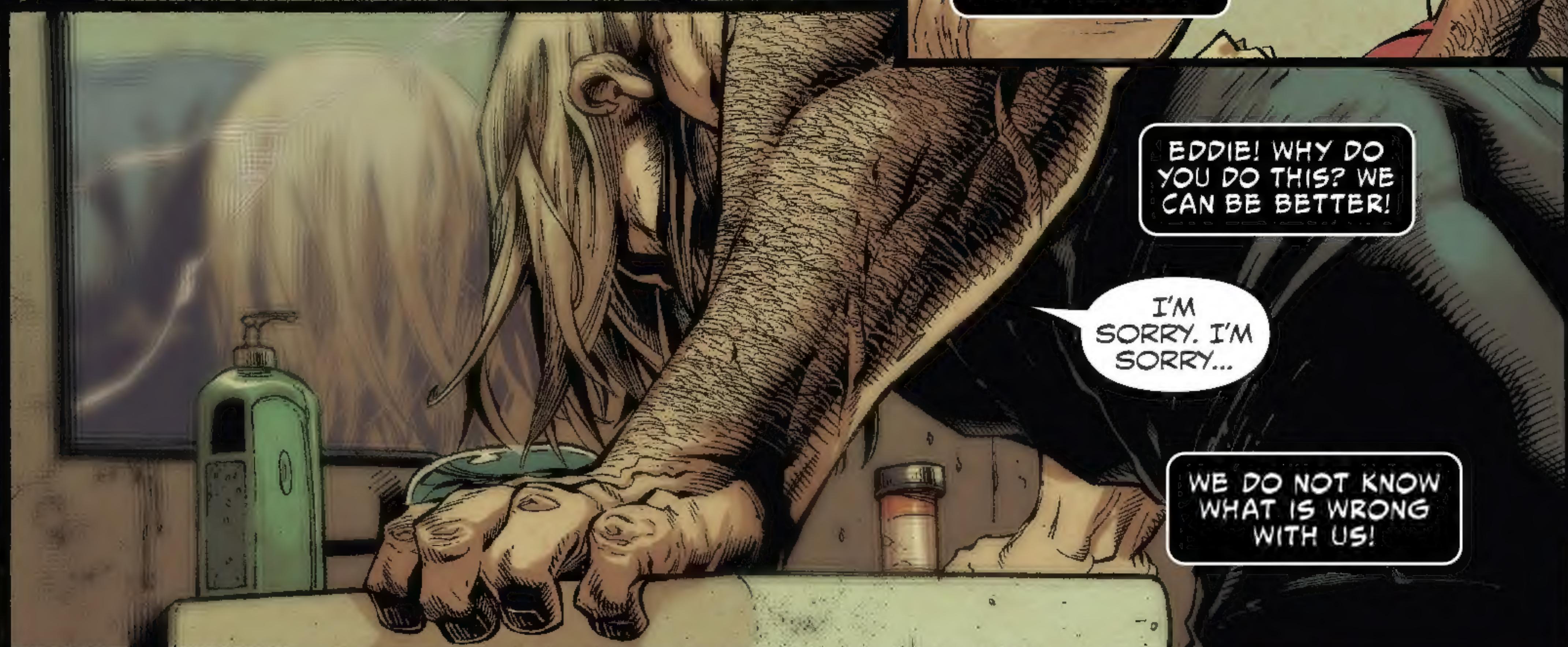
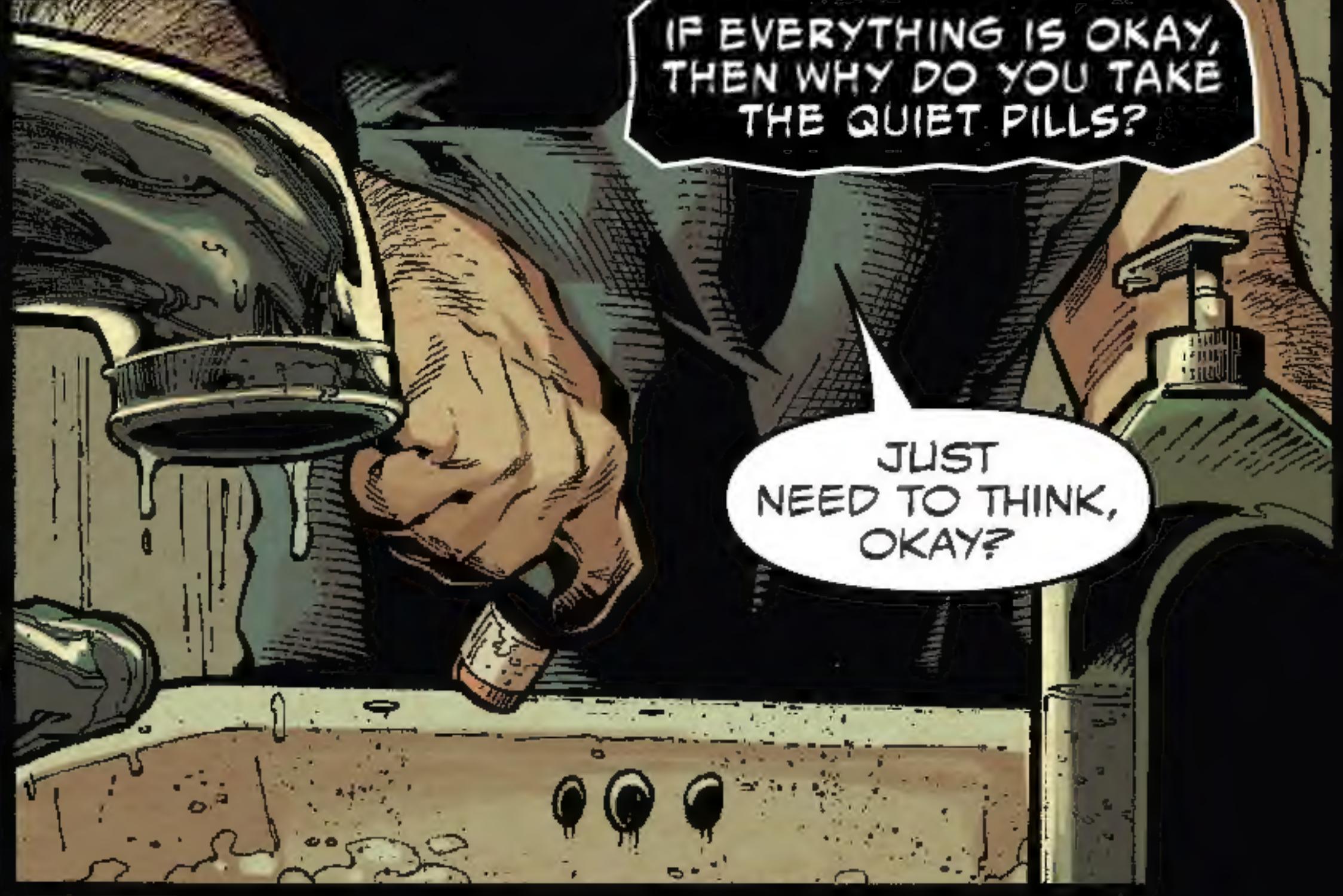
WHY DOES OUR
MIND HURT?
WHAT IS WRONG
WITH US, EDDIE?

NOTHING.
YOU'RE OKAY.
IT WAS JUST
A--

LYING!

IF EVERYTHING IS OKAY,
THEN WHY DO YOU TAKE
THE QUIET PILLS?

JUST
NEED TO THINK,
OKAY?





YEARS AGO, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH A UNIQUE ALIEN ORGANISM CALLED A SYMBIOTE.

AFTER REALIZING THE COSTUME WAS READING HIS MIND AND TRYING TO MAKE THEIR UNION PERMANENT, SPIDER-MAN REJECTED IT.

BETRAYED AND LEFT FOR DEAD, THE SYMBIOTE FOUND A WILLING HOST IN EDDIE BROCK, A REPORTER WHOSE LIFE SPIDER-MAN HAD ALSO RUINED.

BROCK WELCOMED THE SYMBIOTE AND THE TWO WERE JOINED, SWEARING VENGEANCE ON SPIDER-MAN AND BECOMING THE SINGULAR ENTITY CALLED...

VENOM

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
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JOE QUESADA CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY PRESIDENT

ALAN FINE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



GOT TO FIGURE THIS OUT
BEFORE IT GETS WORSE.
ALREADY LOST MY JOB
AT THE FACT SHEET FOR
BEING LATE TURNING IN
ASSIGNMENTS ONE TOO
MANY TIMES.

TURNS OUT IT'S HARD TO
WRITE WITH A PSYCHOTIC
ALIEN SCREAMING
NONSENSE AND BILE
INTO YOUR BRAIN ALL
DAY AND NIGHT.

I CAN STILL CONTROL
MY OTHER ENOUGH TO
GET AROUND. BUT
IT'S...DIFFICULT. I CAN
FEEL IT TUGGING AT ME.
WANTING TO UNLEASH.

WANTING TO KILL
SOMETHING.
ANYTHING.

STILL, IT'S NOT LIKE
WE'RE ENTIRELY
USELESS.

WE'VE BEEN KEEPING AN
EYE ON THIS NEW JACK
O'LANTERN'S MOVEMENTS
FOR MONTHS NOW.

WE MAY BE SIDELINED,
BUT WE STILL PROTECT
THE INNOCENT...

IN OUR
OWN WAY...

I'M TELLIN'
YOU GUYS, WITH
THESE PUPPIES, THE
WEB-HEAD AIN'T NEVER GONNA
SEE YOU COMIN'. THIS IS
NORMAN OSBORN'S
PRIVATE STOCK!

PRIMO STUFF!
HIGH-TECH! SHORT-
CIRCUITS WHATEVER
WEIRD SENSE HE'S
GOT THAT LETS HIM
KNOW WE'S
COMIN'!

I DON'T
REMEMBER OSBORN
EVER USING MACHINE
GUNS, JACK
O'LANTERN...

WHAT? OF
COURSE HE DID.
ON HIS BIG...GLIDER
THING, CHOCK-FULL OF
MACHINE GUNS. I'M
TELLIN' YOU.

YOU KNOW,
YOU MIGHT JUST
BE THE DUMBEST GUY
TO EVER WEAR THAT
STUPID HALLOWEEN
COSTUME.

WHAT?! HEY,
HEY, HEY! FELLAS,
NOW, LET'S NOT ALL
LOSE OUR HEADS
HERE. I'M SURE WE
CAN FIGURE
THIS--

THE
LIGHTS--?! THE
HELL IS THIS,
JACK?!

THIS
AIN'T
ME!

SADLY, IT'S
NOT US,
EITHER.

FREEZE!

AH,
HELL...

A BIT ANTICLIMACTIC, I KNOW. USED TO BE WE'D BE IN THERE BREAKING JAWS AND METING OUT JUSTICE WITH A BIG TOOTHY GRIN ON OUR FACE.



SNAP



AND JUST LIKE THAT, I'M A PASSENGER. MY BODY NO LONGER BELONGS TO ME.

I TRY PLEADING WITH MY OTHER, TRY CALMING IT DOWN.

IN REPLY, I HEAR ONLY SCREAMING. AND LAUGHTER.

HE BEGS. HE'S RIGHT TO.

AH-ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT, I GIVE! LOOK, I AIN'T EVEN THE REAL JACK O'LANtern, MAN! I JUST FOUND THIS GEAR AND...AND I'M SORRY! JUS-JUST DONT--

GAH!

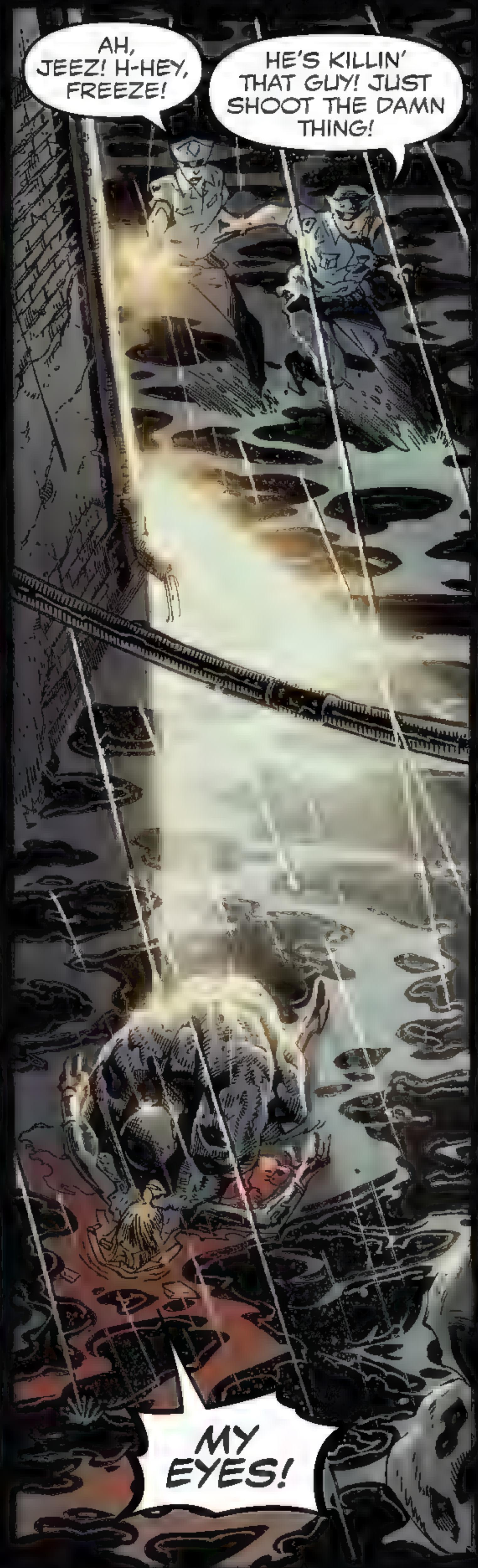
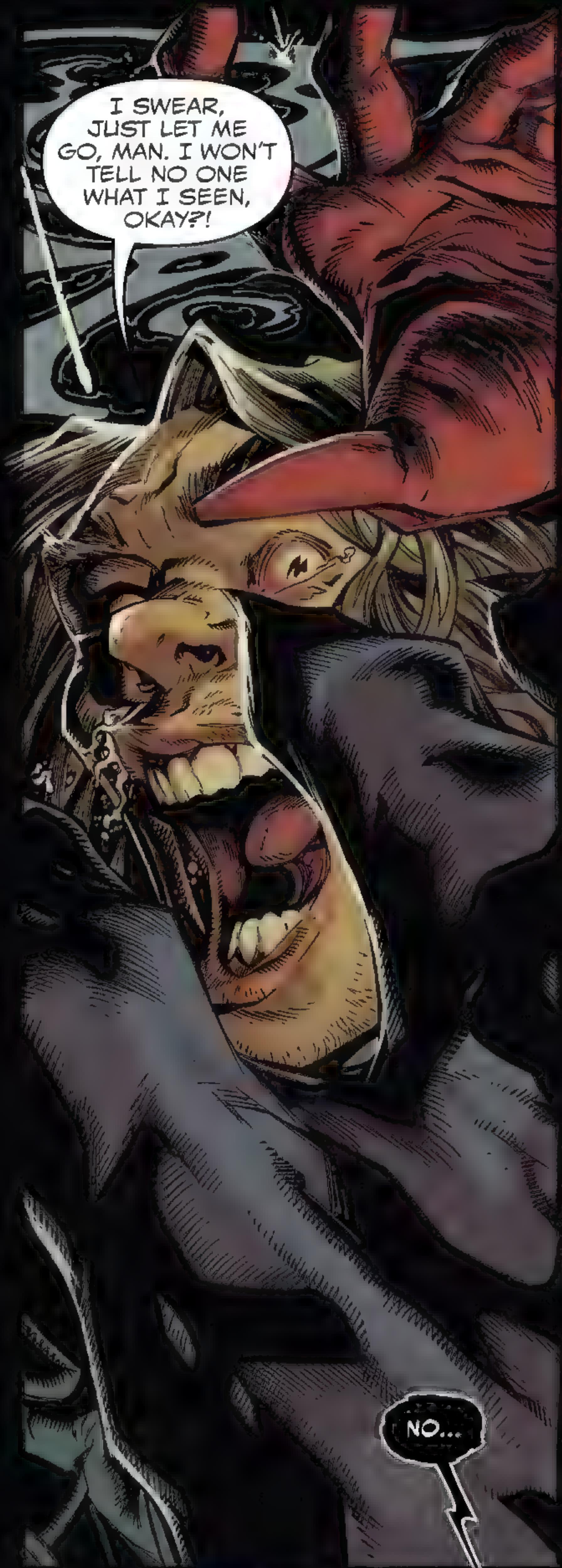
AH, GOD...IT'S YOU... IT'S...

BUT THIS ISN'T ME.

AND VENOM ISN'T LISTENING.

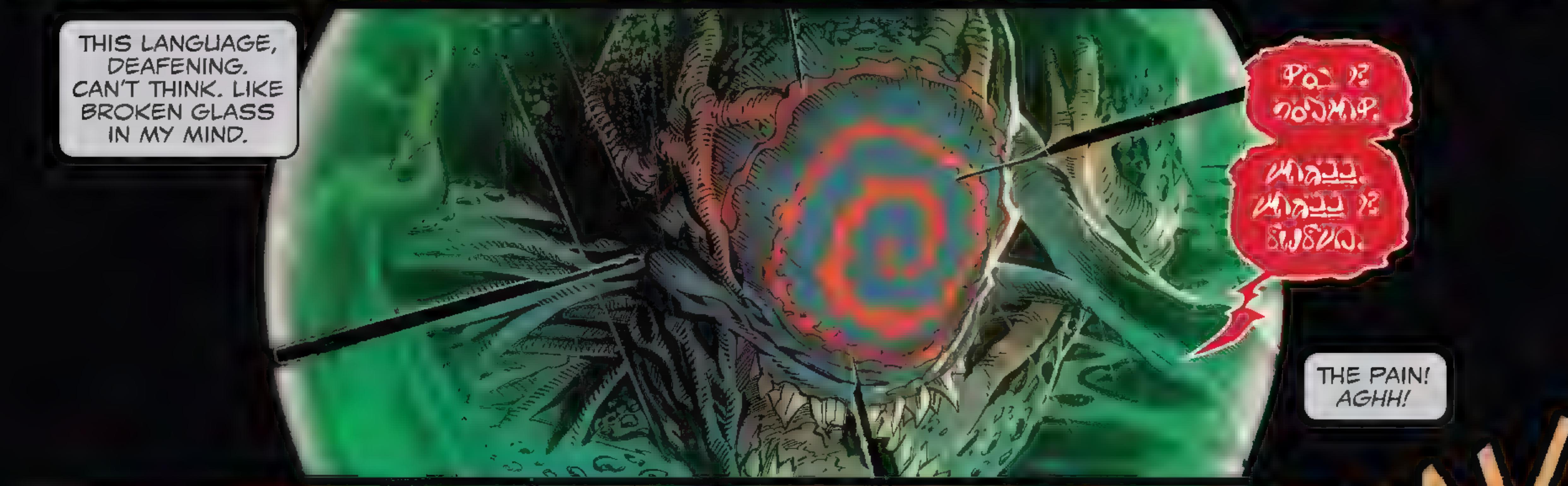
KRAK

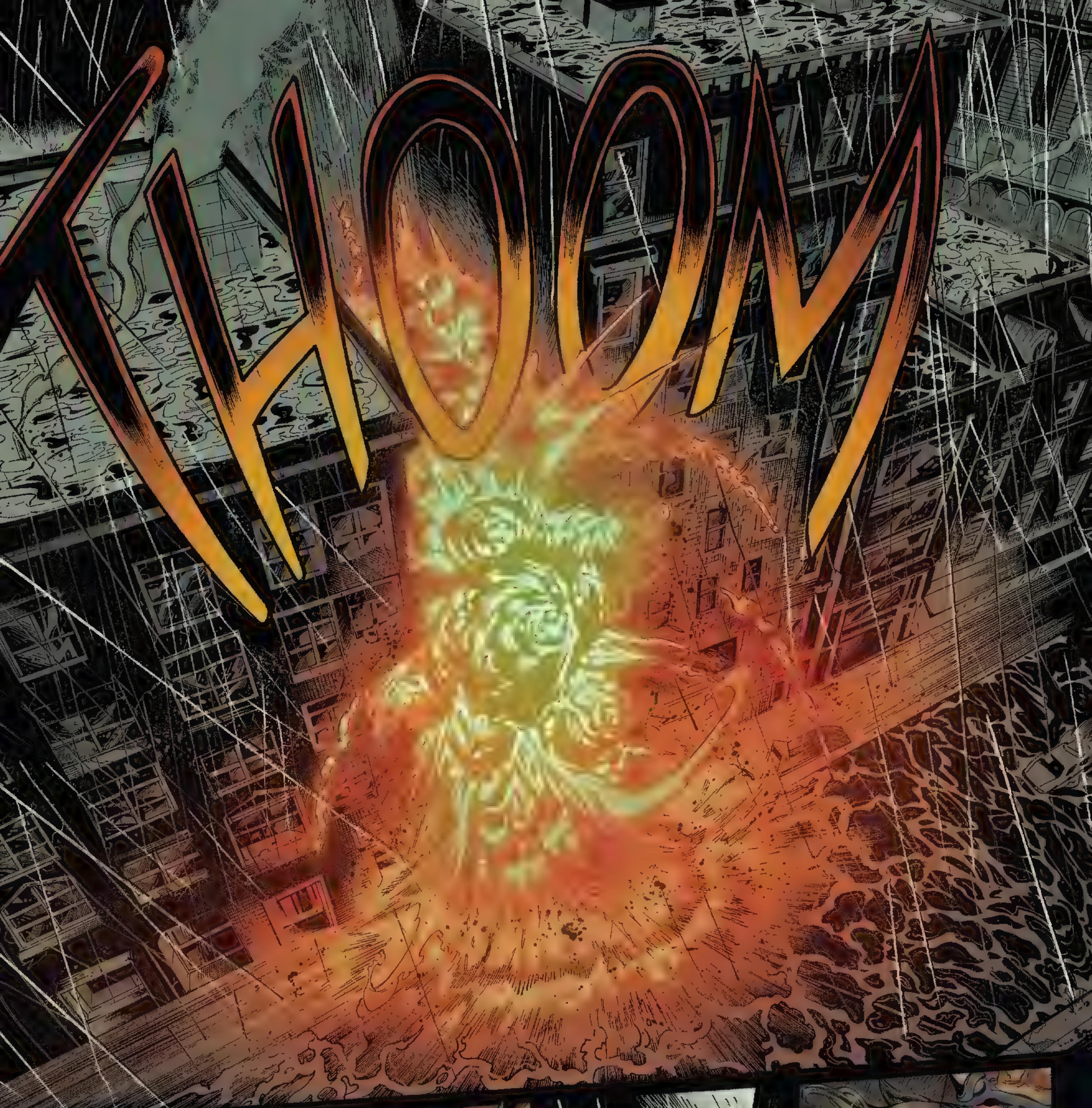
BOOM



POI 12
GÖTTSCHE







T-THOMPSON?
I'M NOT FLASH
THOMPSON...



EDDIE.

EDDIE,
WAKE UP.

I COME TO IN
DARKNESS.

IT HURTS,
EDDIE.

KILL HIM.

END THIS.
END IT ALL.

DARKNESS, PAIN...

LOUD! HURTS!

WE SHOULD
LEAVE YOU.

WORTHLESS.

...AND
NOISE.

ANTI-PSYCHOTICS WEARING OFF. AMPS
PUTTING OUT LOW-FREQUENCY BASS NOTES
ONLY MY OTHER CAN HEAR. NOT ENOUGH TO
KILL, BUT ENOUGH TO KEEP IT AT BAY.

SHUT
UP!

ADD THAT TO THE BLAST
FURNACE AT MY BACK,
AND IT SENDS A HELL
OF A MESSAGE...

HA! WELL,
GOOD MORNING,
SUNSHINE!

HOT
ENOUGH FOR
YA?

THIS GUY
KNOWS HIS
WAY AROUND
A SYMBIOTE.

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?

ALL RIGHT,
ALL RIGHT. I AIN'T
ONE TO PLAY GAMES.
SO I'LL PUT IT TO
YOU STRAIGHT,
SON.

I NEED YOUR
HELP.

WELL, IF I'M
BEING HONEST,
I WANTED FLASH
THOMPSON'S HELP, BUT
I GUESS MY INTEL'S
A BIT OLD, SO NOW
I'M STUCK WITH
YOU.

IT'S BROCK,
RIGHT? EDDIE BROCK?

EDDIE, WHAT
CAN YOU TELL ME
ABOUT PROJECT
REBIRTH? SPECIFICALLY,
THE "TWO POINT
OH" VERSION?

CAN YOU HEAR ME? I'LL
KEEP THIS IDIOT TALKING,
YOU GET TO HIM AND--

YES. TAKE
HIS LUNGS
OUT AND--

NO! DO
NOT KILL
HIM!

PLEASE DON'T YELL
AT US, EDDIE! WE
DON'T KNOW WHAT'S
WRONG...OUR
THOUGHTS ARE ALL
JAGGED AND--

I KNOW. I
KNOW...JUST
FOCUS.

PROJECT
REBIRTH. YEAH, THE
MILITARY PROGRAM
THAT MADE CAPTAIN
AMERICA AND
NOTHING ELSE
GOOD.

FEW
YEARS BACK
THEY KICKED IT UP
AGAIN, ONLY THIS
TIME USING MY
OTHER.

YOUR
WHAT?

MY...
SYMBIOTE.
THE ALIEN
THAT'S--

OH, HAH.
OKAY, YEAH. I
GET IT. NEVER HEARD
IT CALLED THAT
BEFORE.

GO ON...

THAT'S
RIGHT. KEEP
LAUGHING,
@#\$%&.

NOT MUCH
ELSE TO TELL.
THEY BONDED MY...
SUIT WITH FLASH
THOMPSON TO CREATE
SOME KINDA NEW
SUPER-SOLDIER
PROG--

NOPE.
INCORRECT.
NOT "NEW,"
SON.

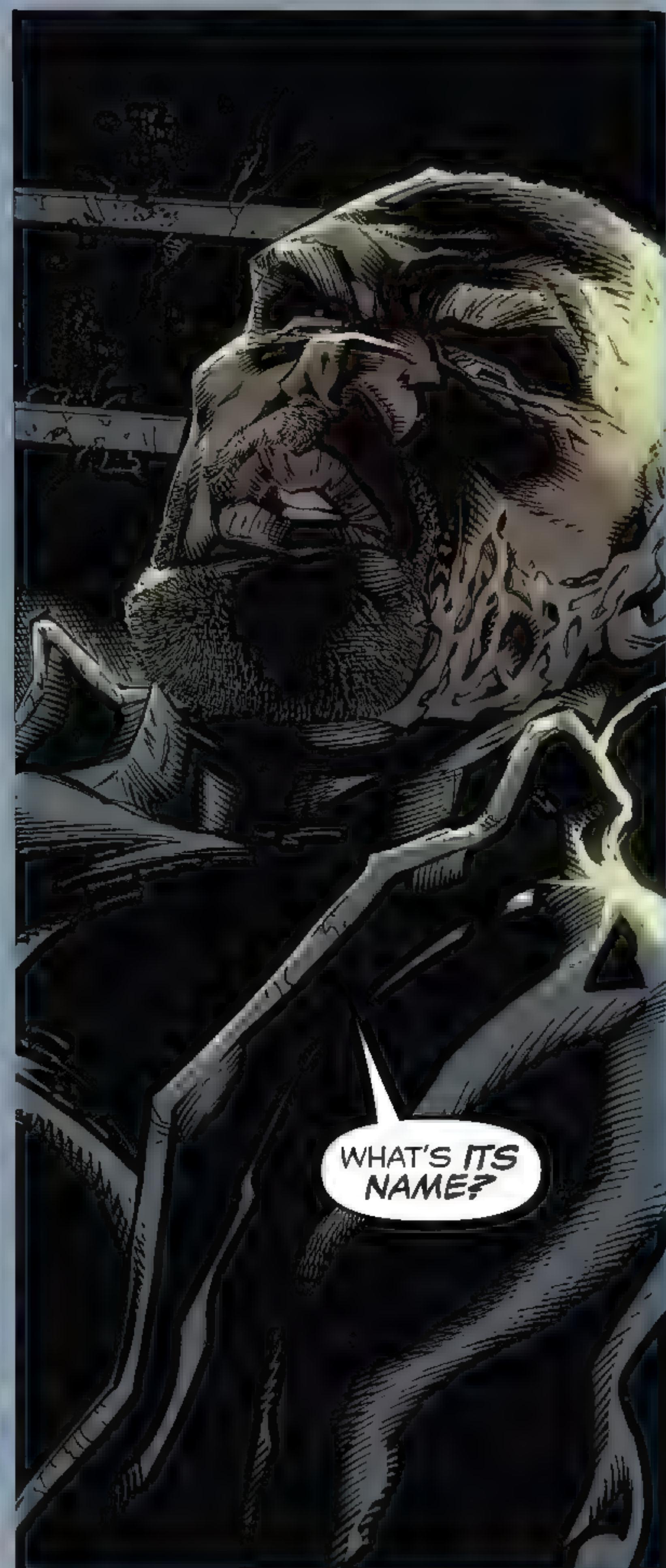
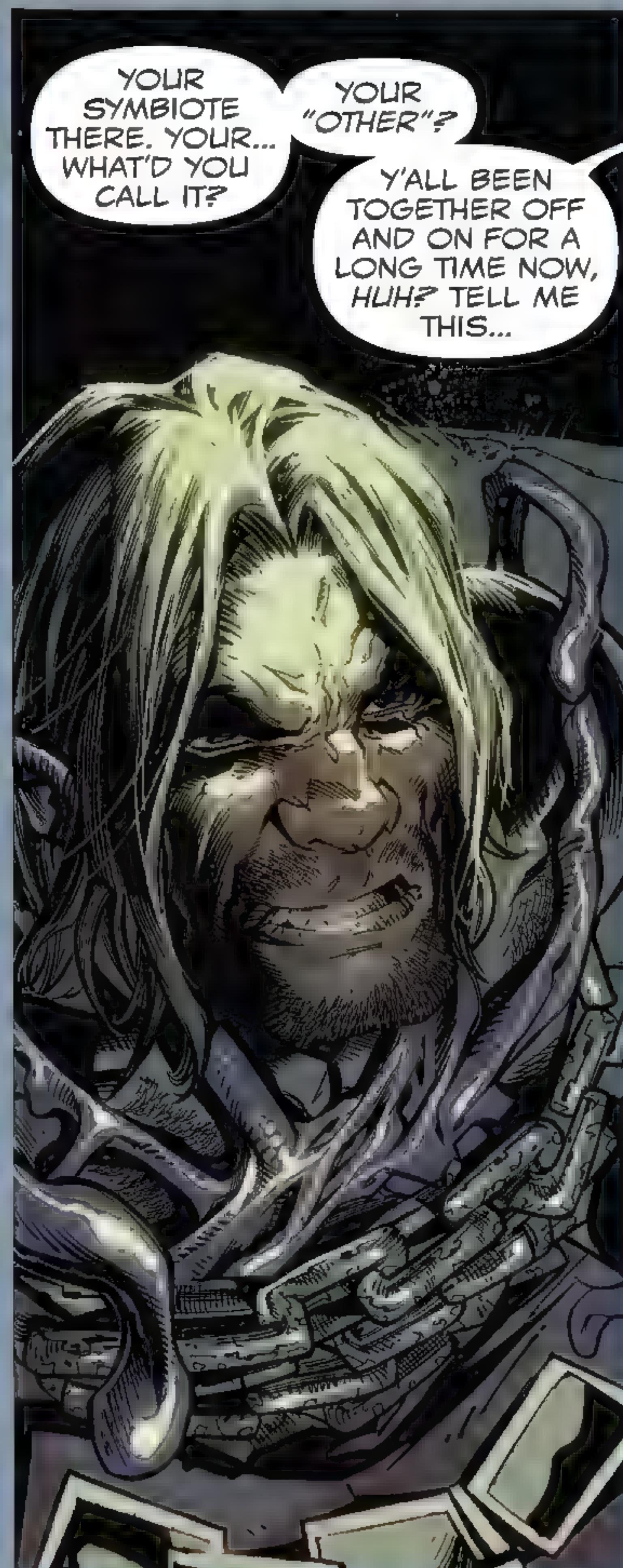
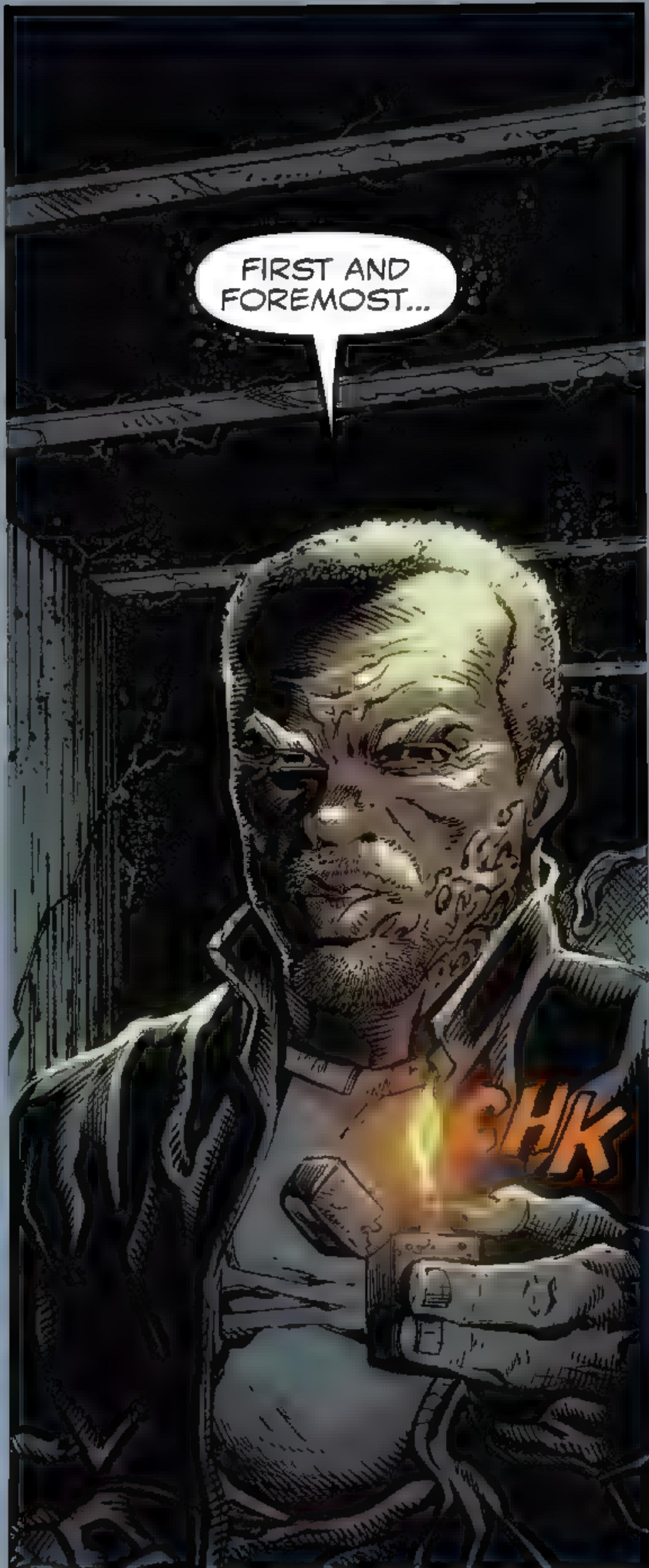
LATEST.

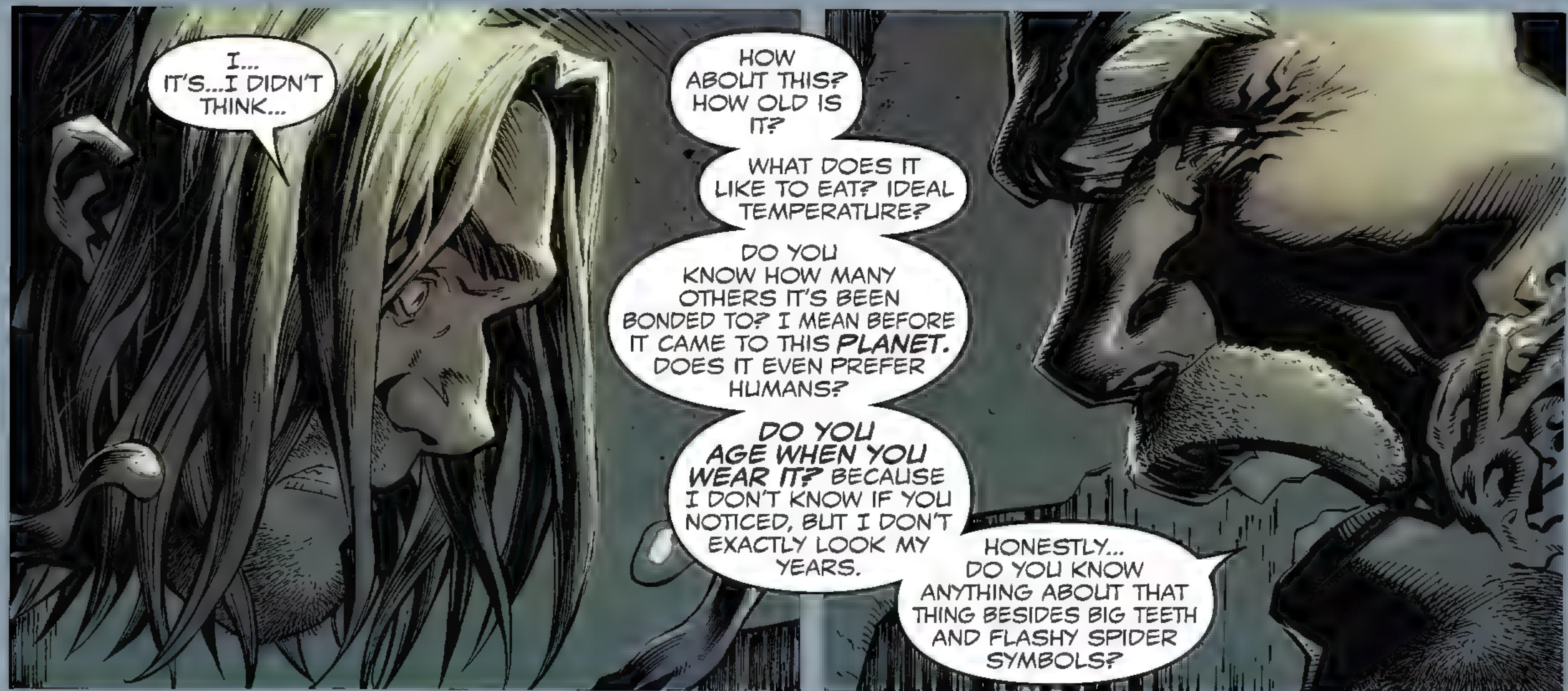
SURPRISED?

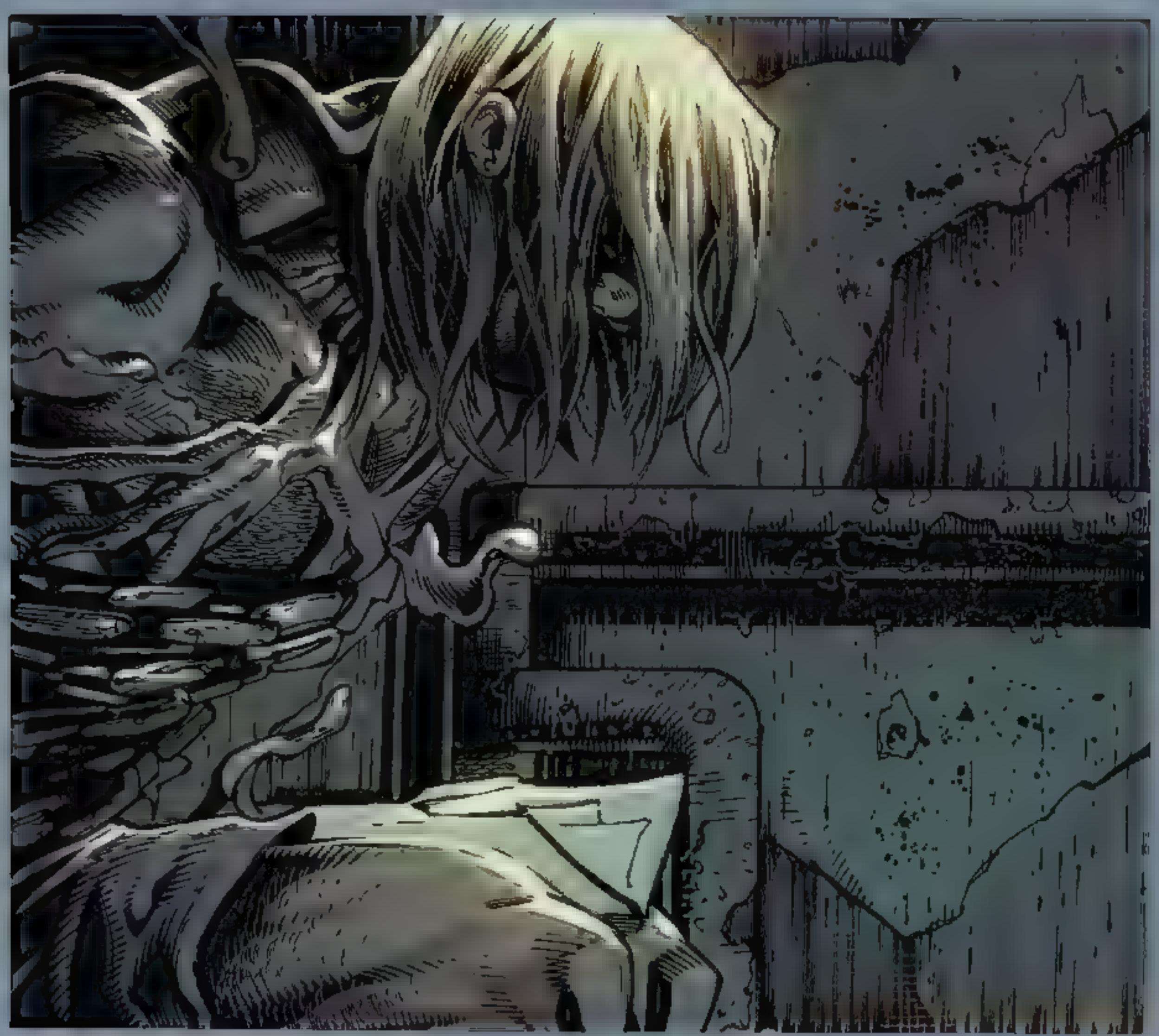
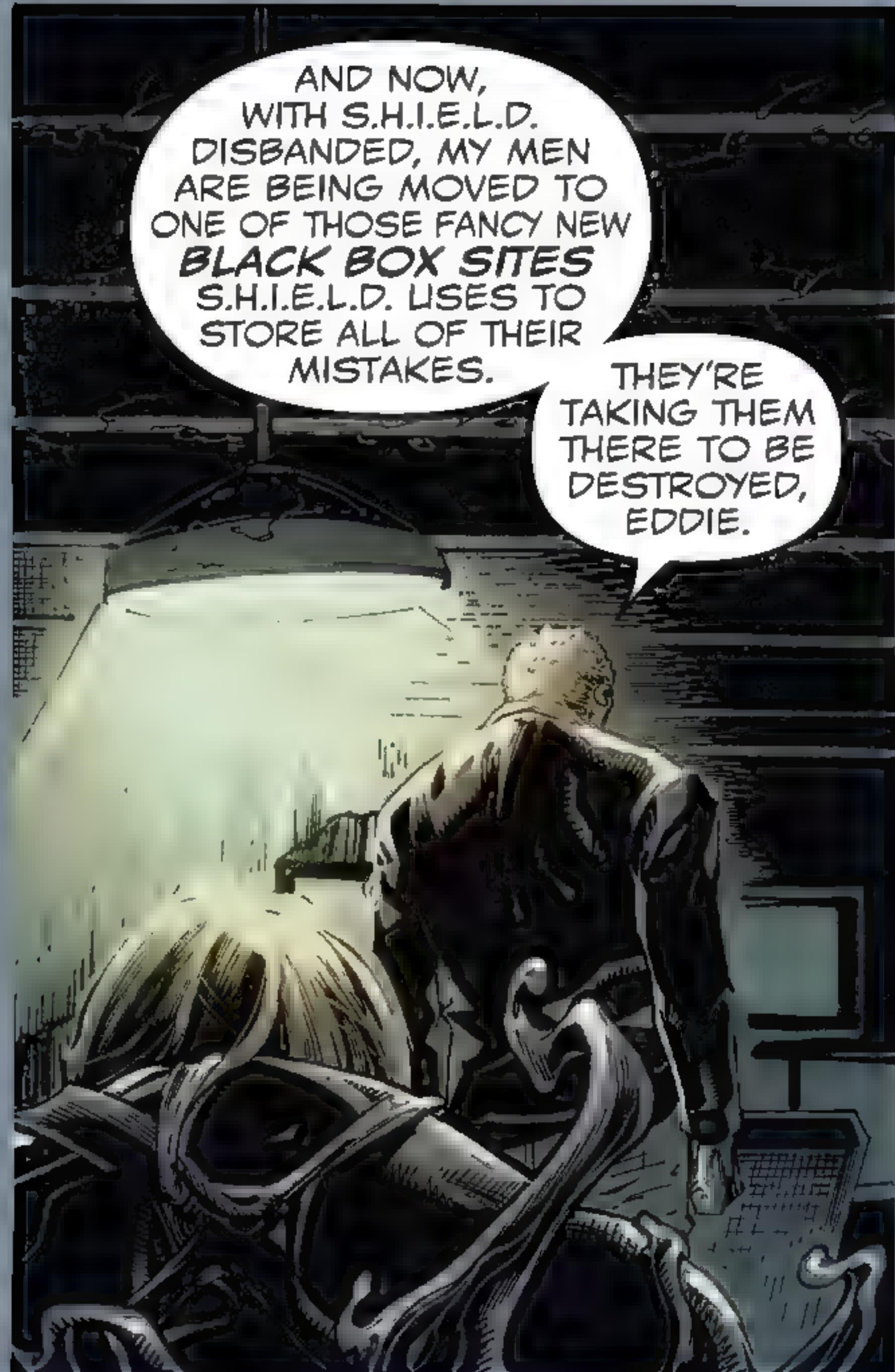
DON'T BE.

W-WHAT?

YOU AIN'T
THE FIRST.
NEITHER WAS
FLASH. NOT
BY A LONG
DAMN
MILE.







YES.

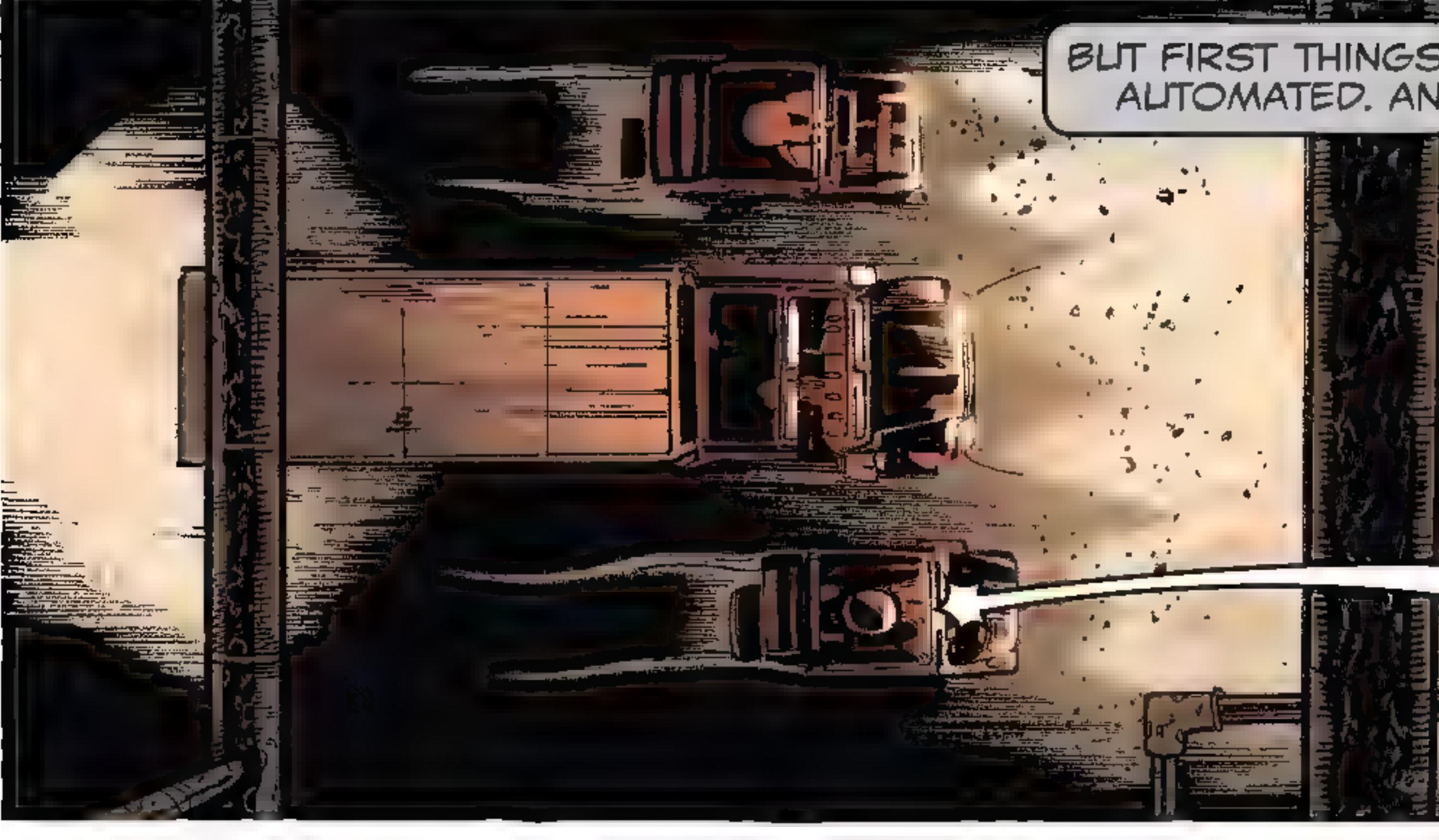
YES,
WE DO.

REX GIVES US THE COORDINATES FOR
AN UNDERGROUND HIGHWAY SYSTEM
USED BY S.H.I.E.L.D. TO TRANSPORT
THEIR BLACK OPS NIGHTMARES.

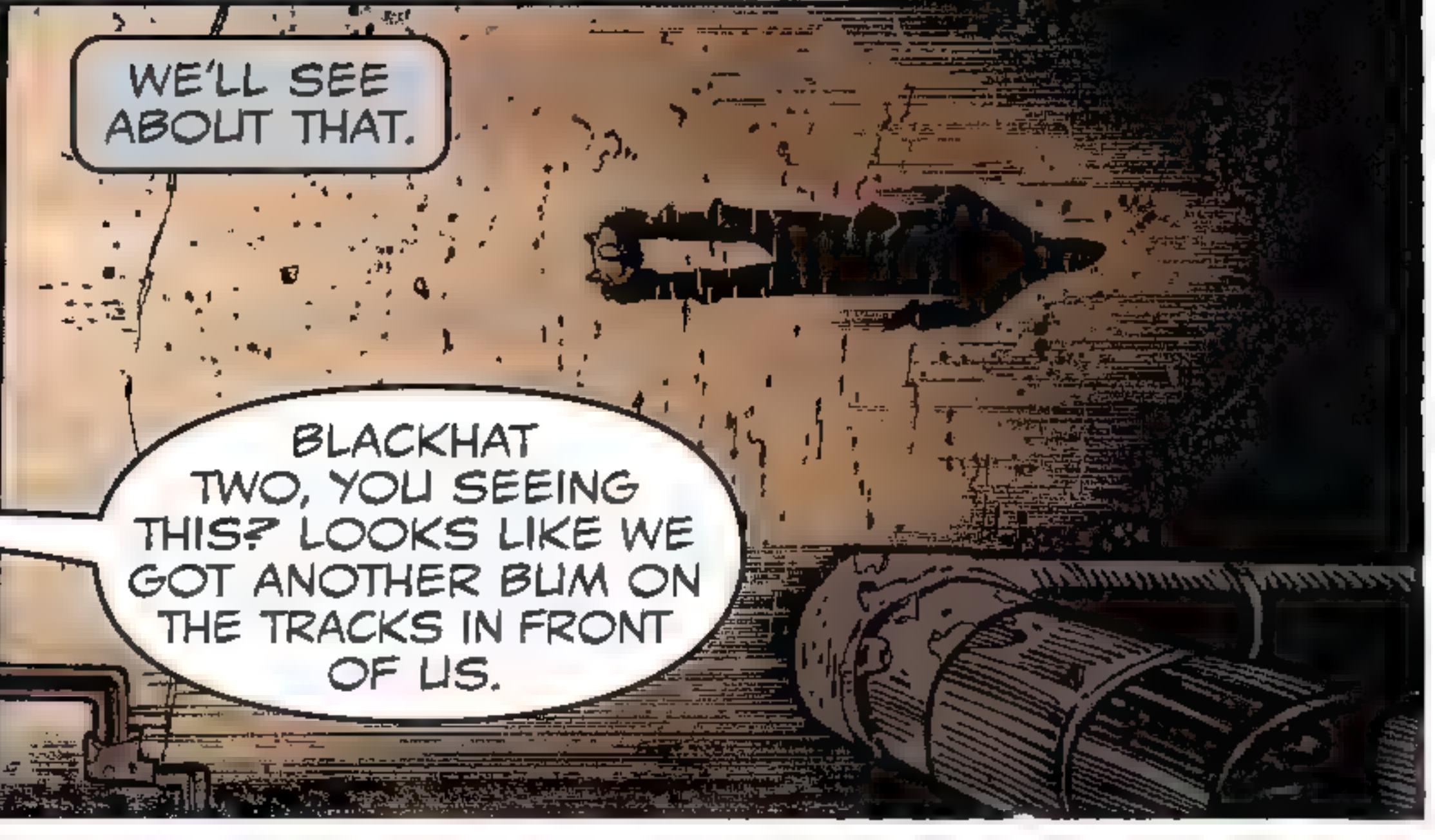
WE'LL RESCUE
THESE MEN.

GET THE
ANSWERS WE
NEED TO FIX
MY OTHER...

...AND THEN
WE'LL KILL EVERY
SINGLE SOUL
WHO PUT THIS
ALL IN MOTION.



BUT FIRST THINGS FIRST. THE TRANSPORT RIGS ARE AUTOMATED. AND SUPPOSEDLY IMPENETRABLE.



WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT.

BLACKHAT
TWO, YOU SEEING THIS? LOOKS LIKE WE GOT ANOTHER BLIM ON THE TRACKS IN FRONT OF US.



THE SUPPORT TRUCKS ARE THE REAL PROBLEM.

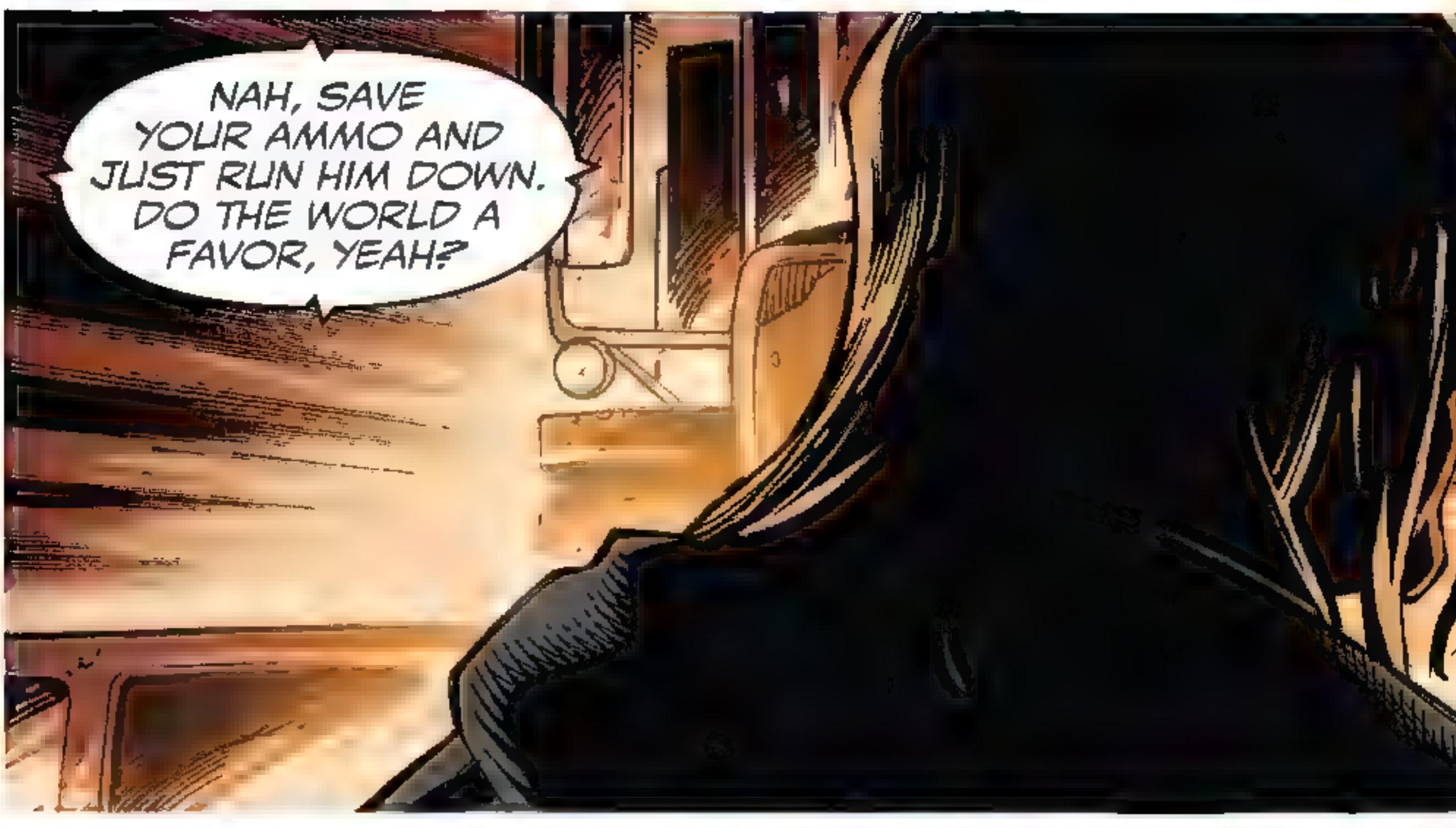
HEAVILY ARMED. INCREDIBLY SOPHISTICATED.

AND PILOTED BY INNOCENT, IF NOT BONE-DUMB, MEN.

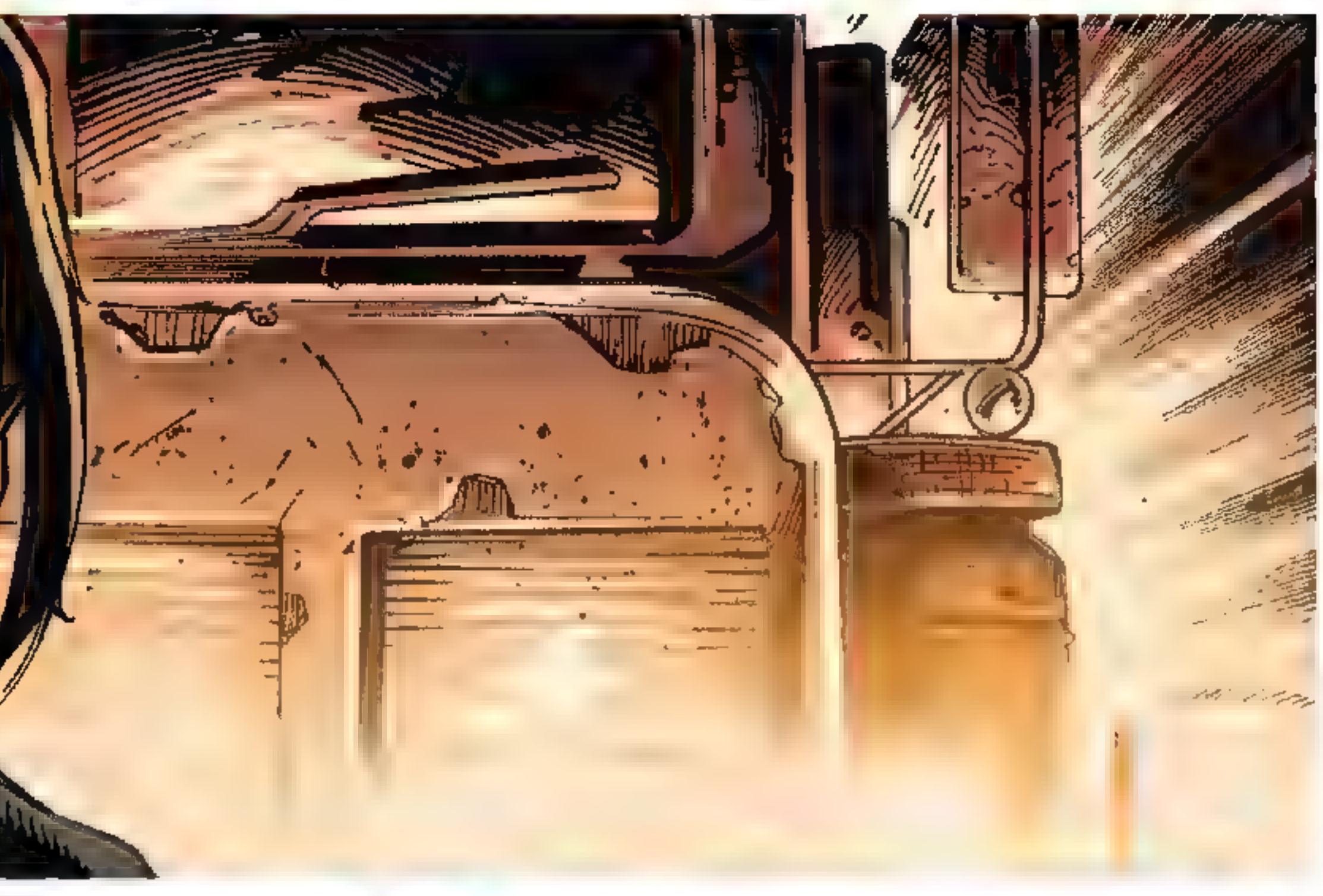
HOW DO THESE GUYS KEEP GETTING DOWN HERE?

AH, YOU KNOW HOW IT IS WITH RATS AND COCKROACHES...THEY GET EVERYWHERE.

YOU COLD, MAN. WHAT SHOULD WE DO? CLEAR THE TRACK?

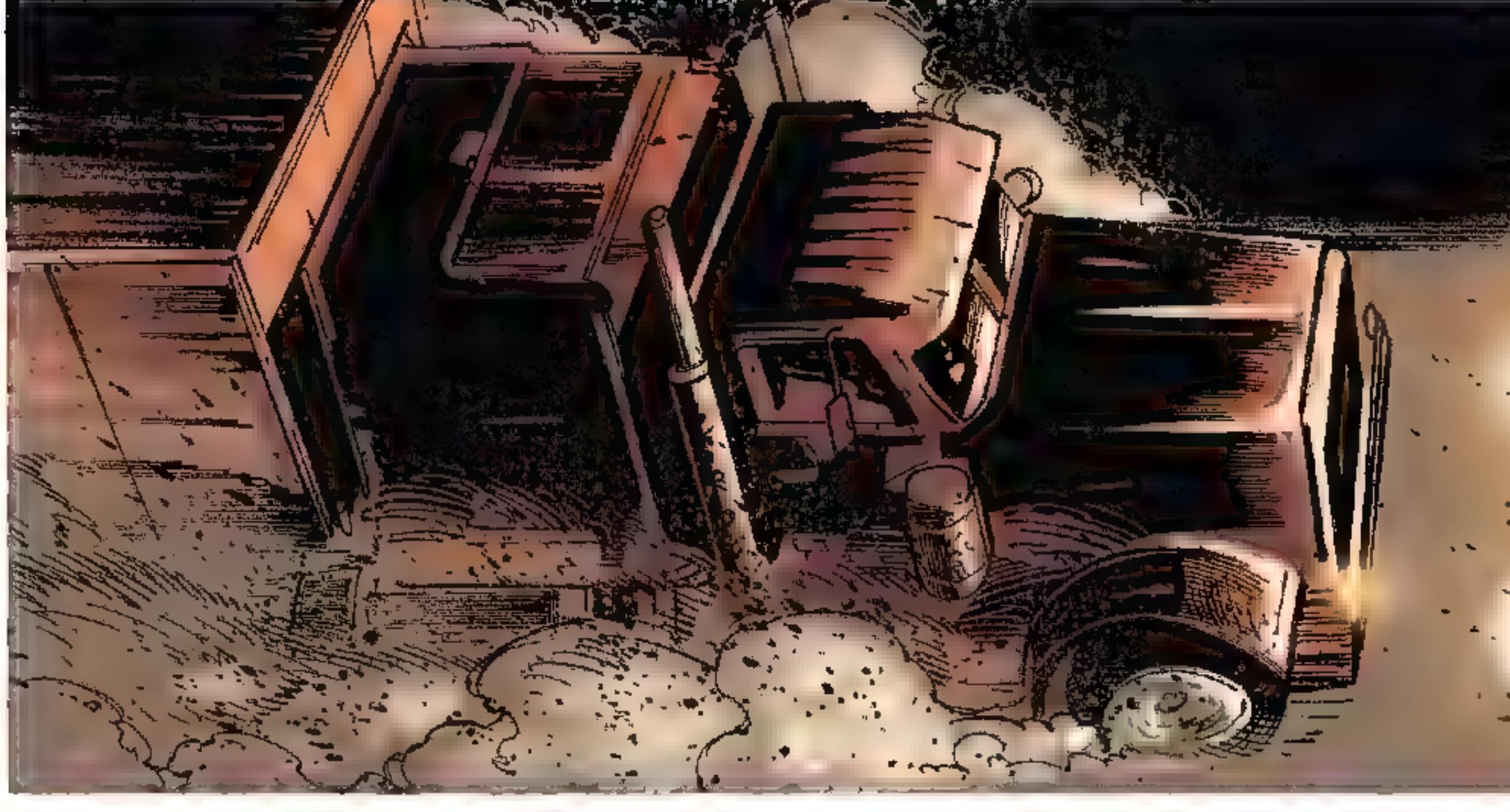


NAH, SAVE YOUR AMMO AND JUST RUN HIM DOWN. DO THE WORLD A FAVOR, YEAH?



YOU HEAR THAT?

YES, EDDIE. BAD MEN.



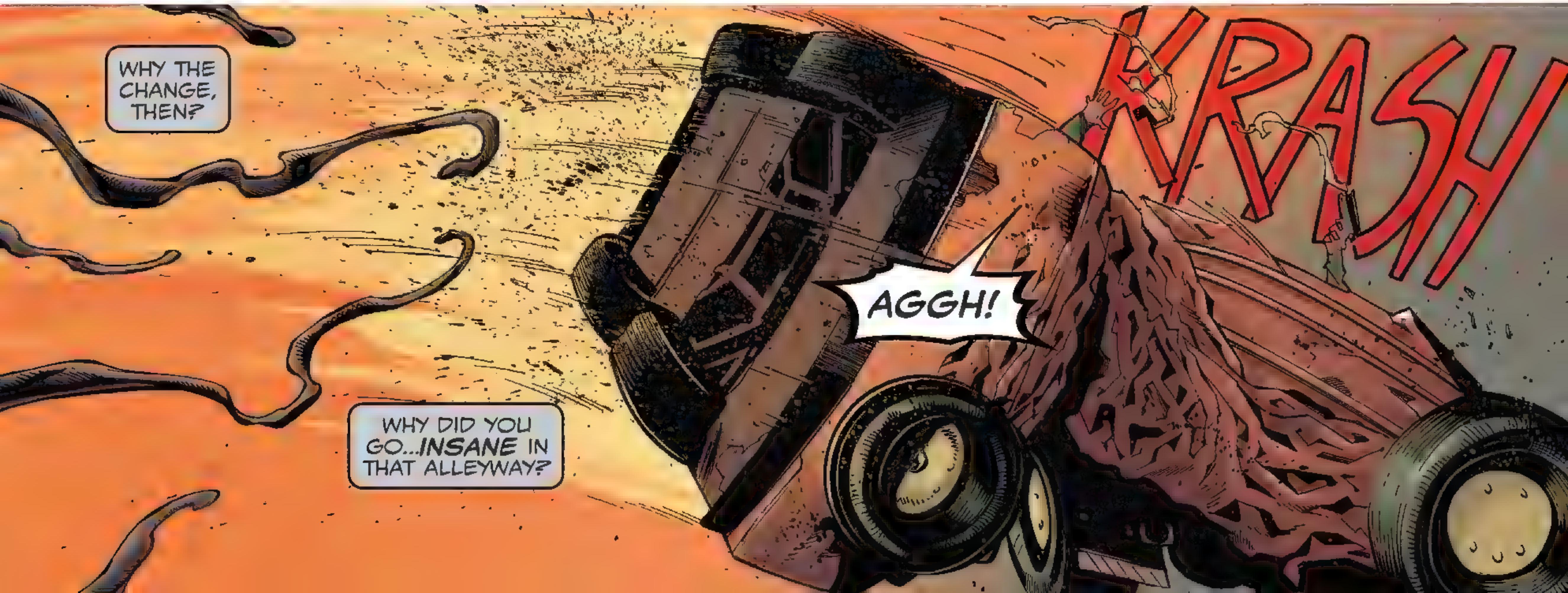
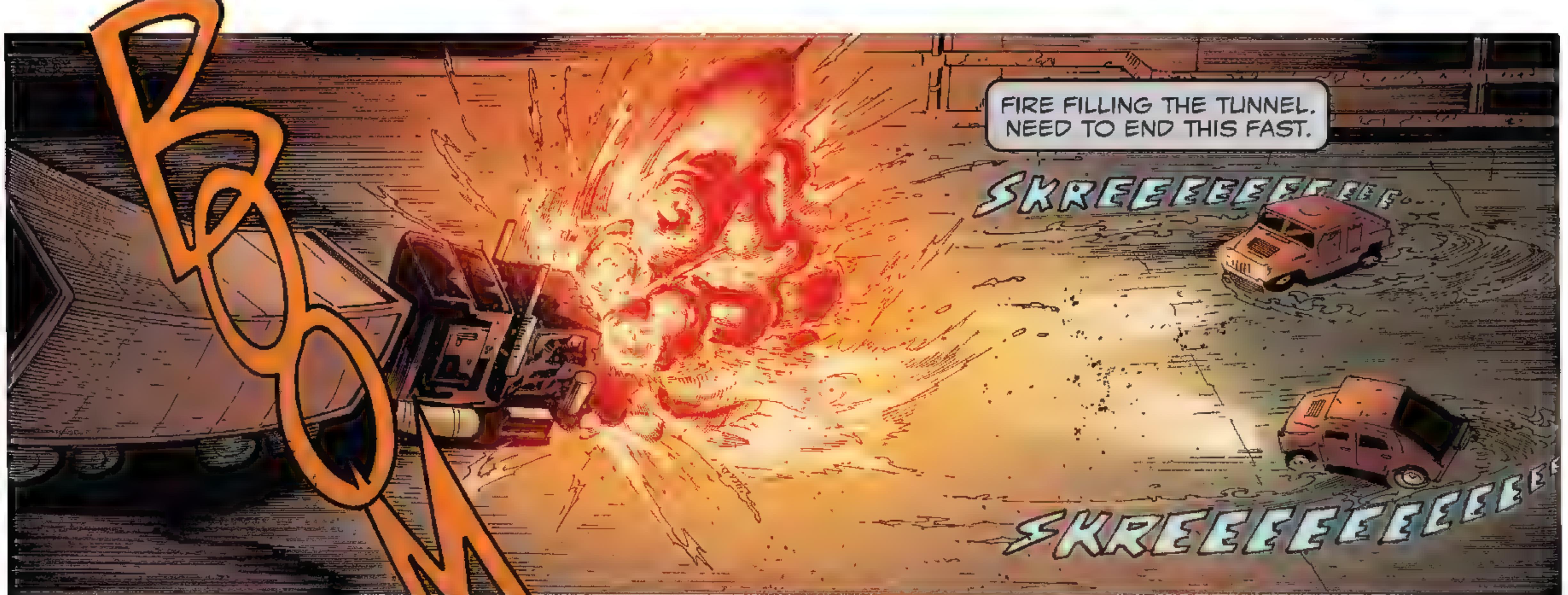
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU UP FOR THIS? LAST TIME WAS A LITTLE--

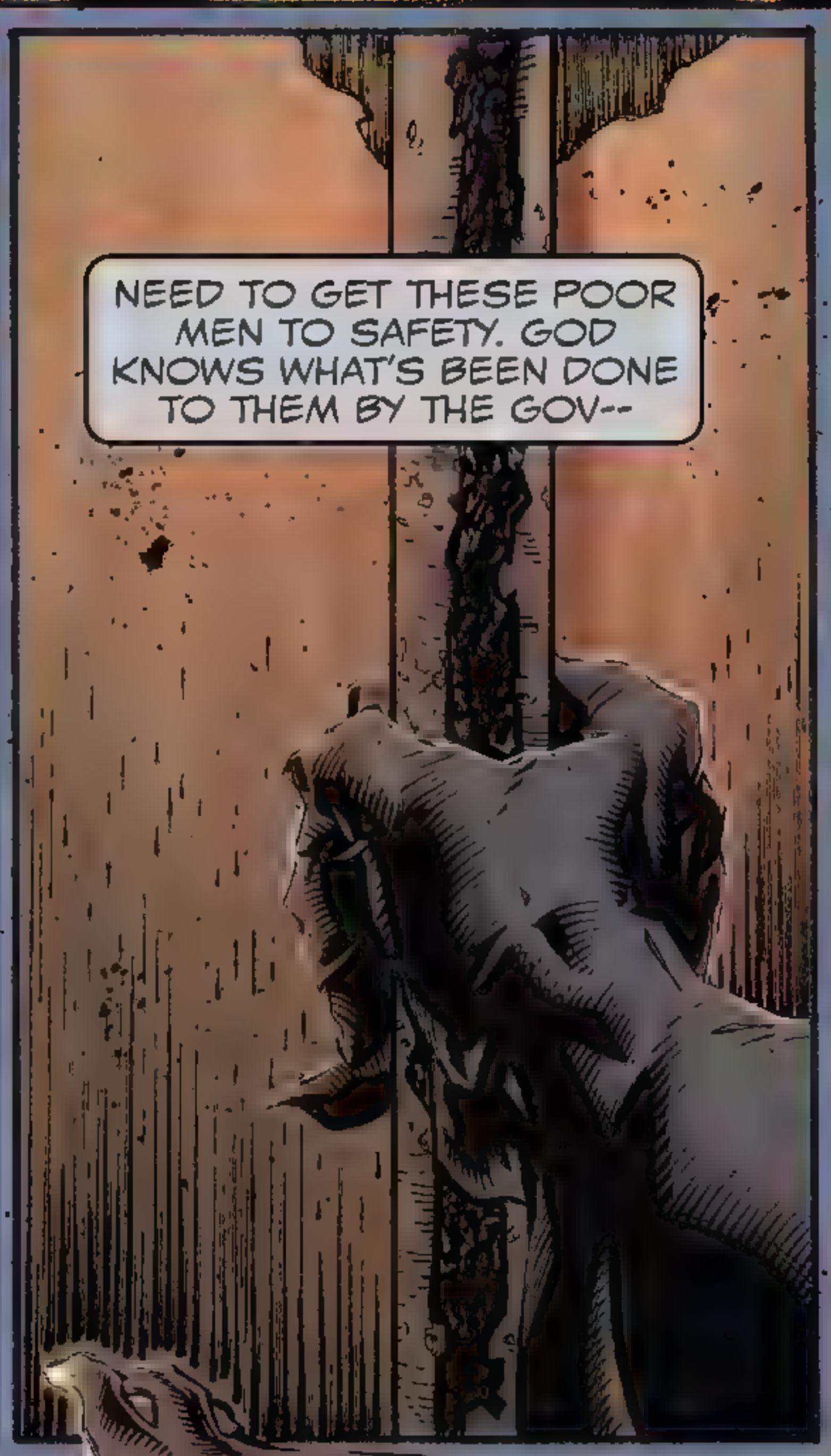
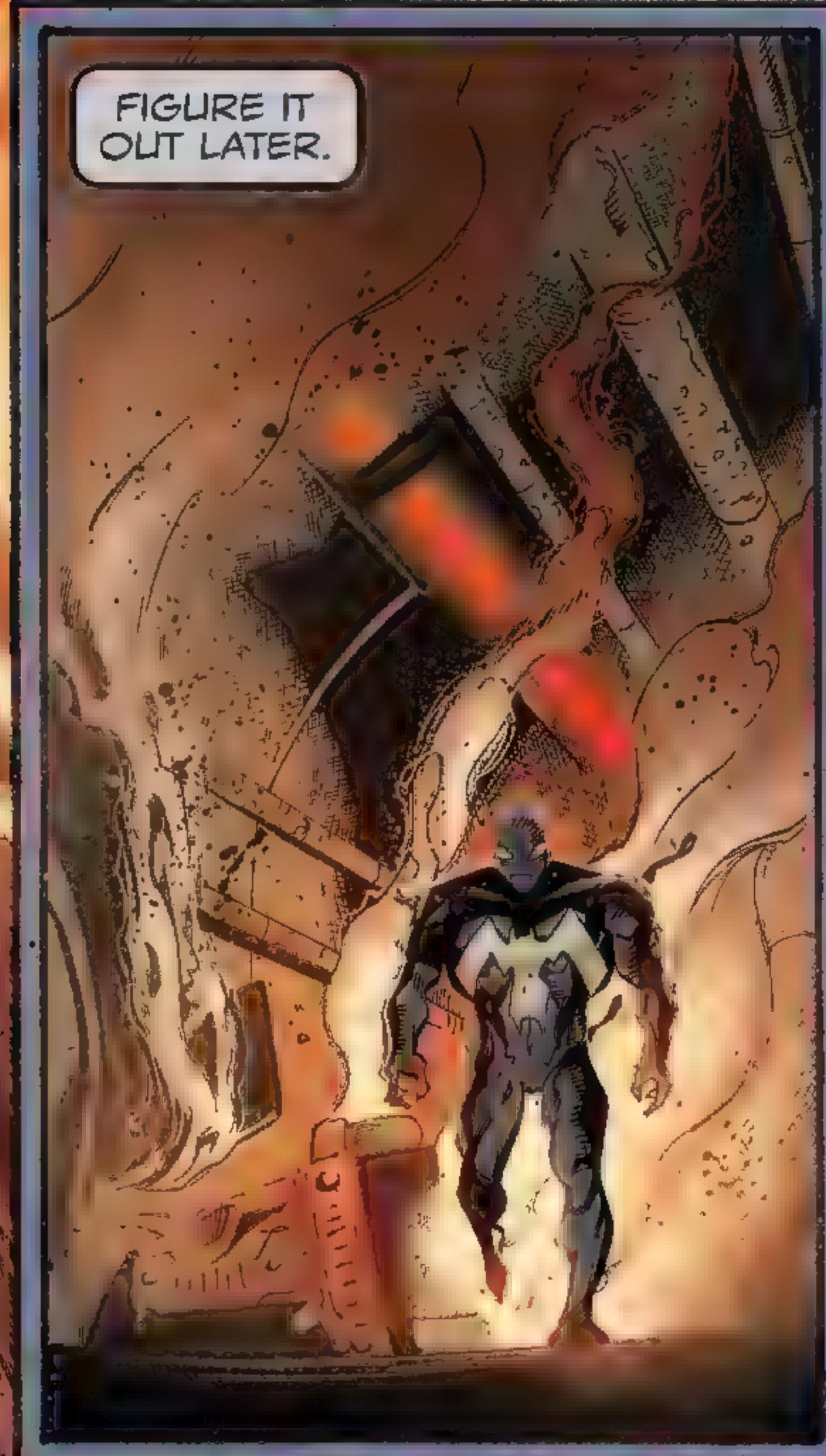
WE KNOW. WE WILL NOT FAIL YOU THIS TIME.

WE'RE FEELING
MUCH STRONGER
NOW.

KRAH







WE FEEL IT AS
SOON AS WE
SEE THEM.

THE SAME RADIATING
DARKNESS FROM
OUR NIGHTMARE.

WHATEVER IT IS
THAT POSSESSED
MY Symbiote...

...IT'S INSIDE
OF THESE
MEN, TOO.

THAT SAME
ANCIENT VOICE.

POLE
NOJMP.

LIKE A BLACK
TENDRIL WRAPPED
AROUND MY SPINE.

AND THEN,
SUDDENLY...

W-WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!

I REALLY AM ALONE.

POD 22
DOOMED

NO! NO,
COME BACK! WHY
ARE YOU DOING
THIS?!

POD 23
DOOMED

TIME CRAWLS BY.
NEVER FELT SO
EXPOSED...

...SO
VULNERABLE.
SO SMALL.

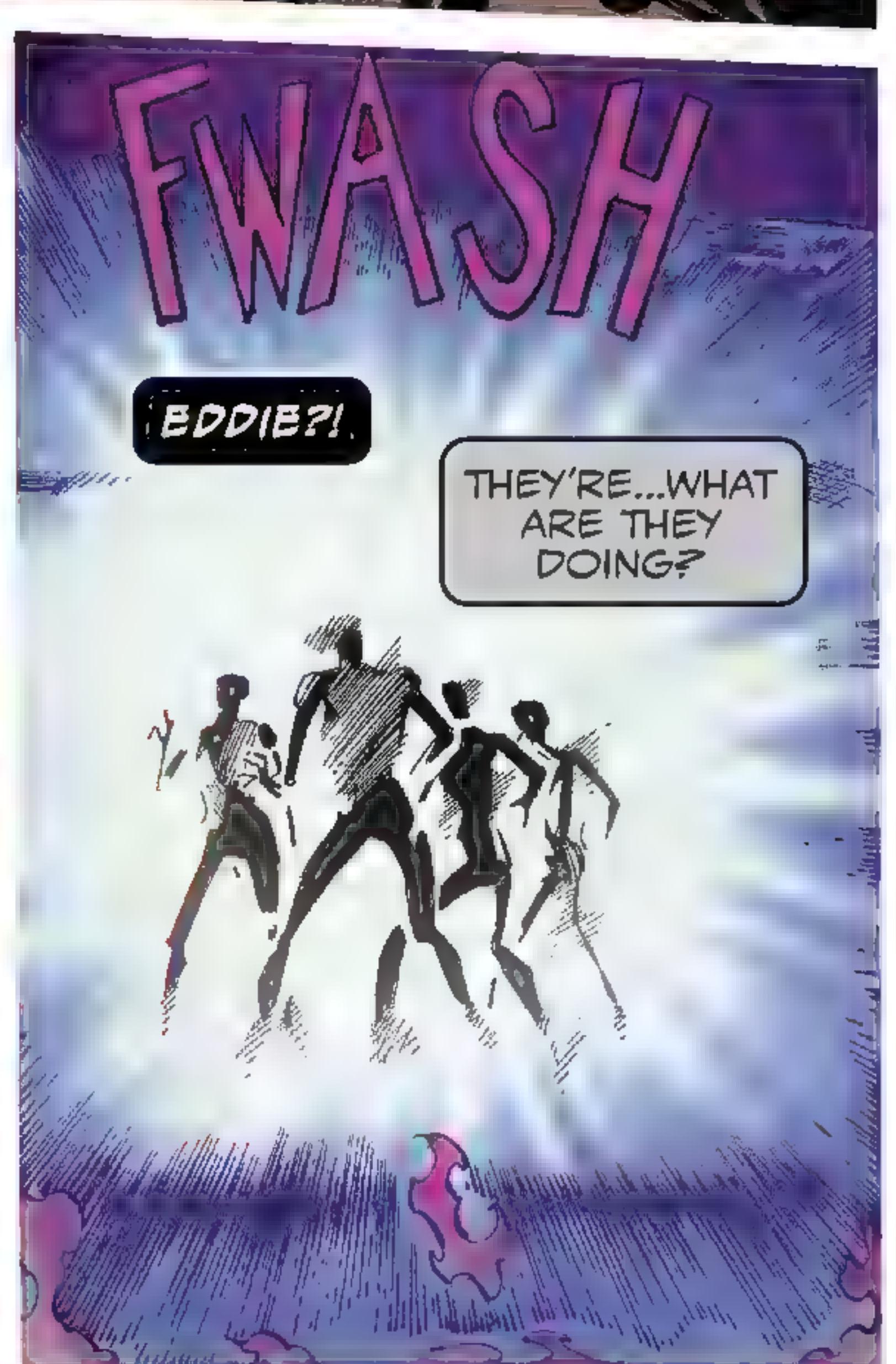
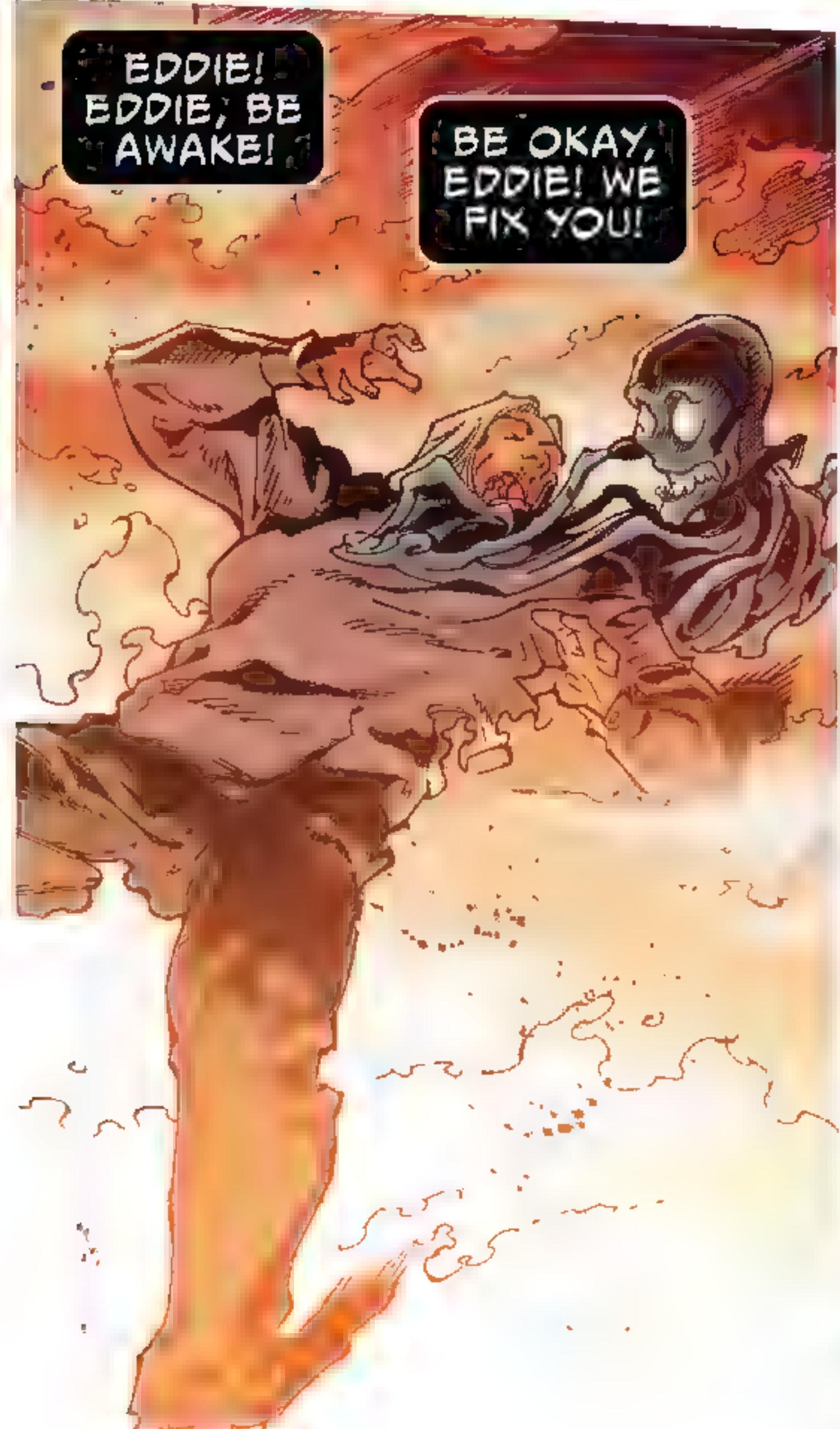
INSTINCTUALLY, I
SCREAM TO MY
OTHER TO
PROTECT ME...

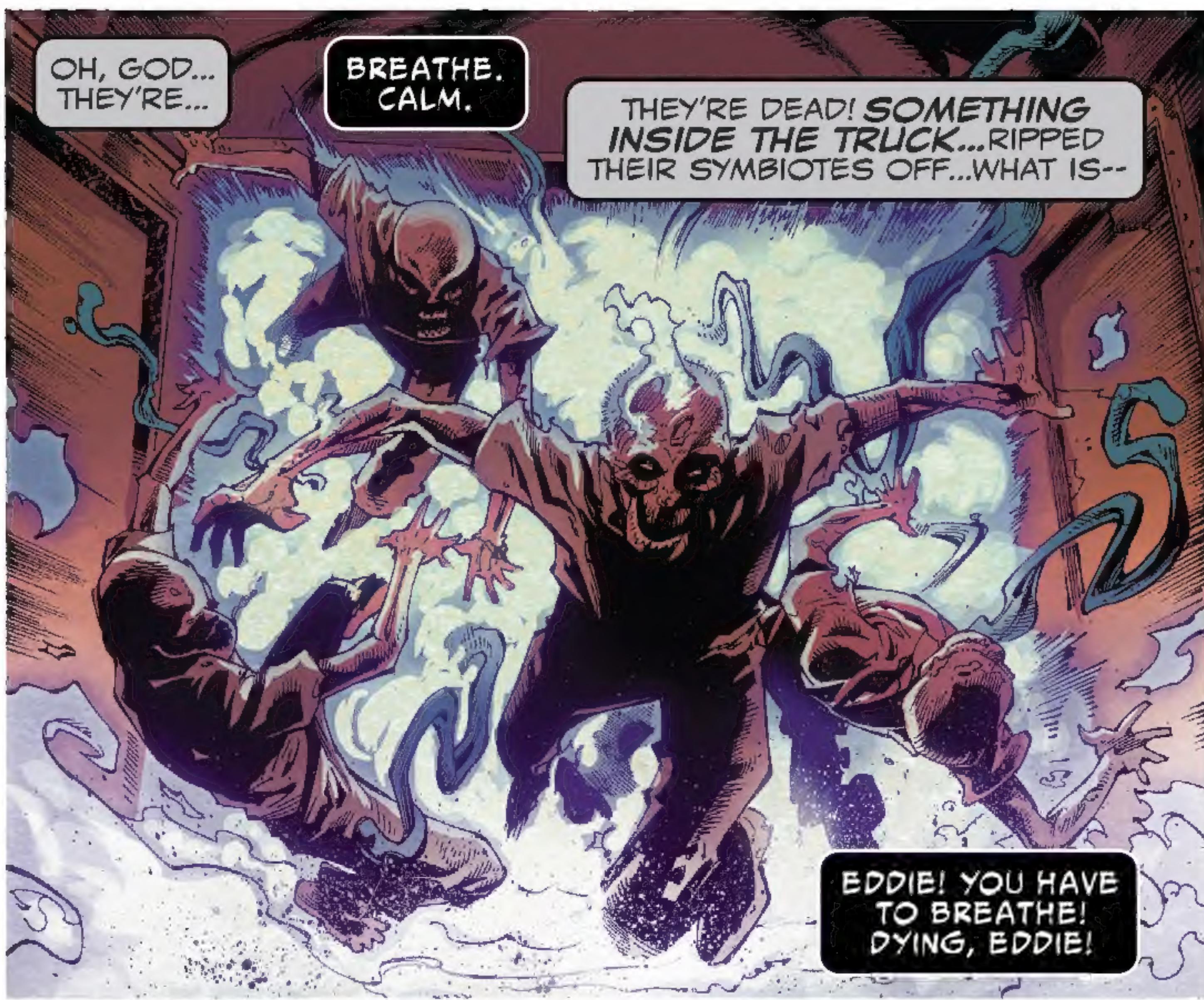
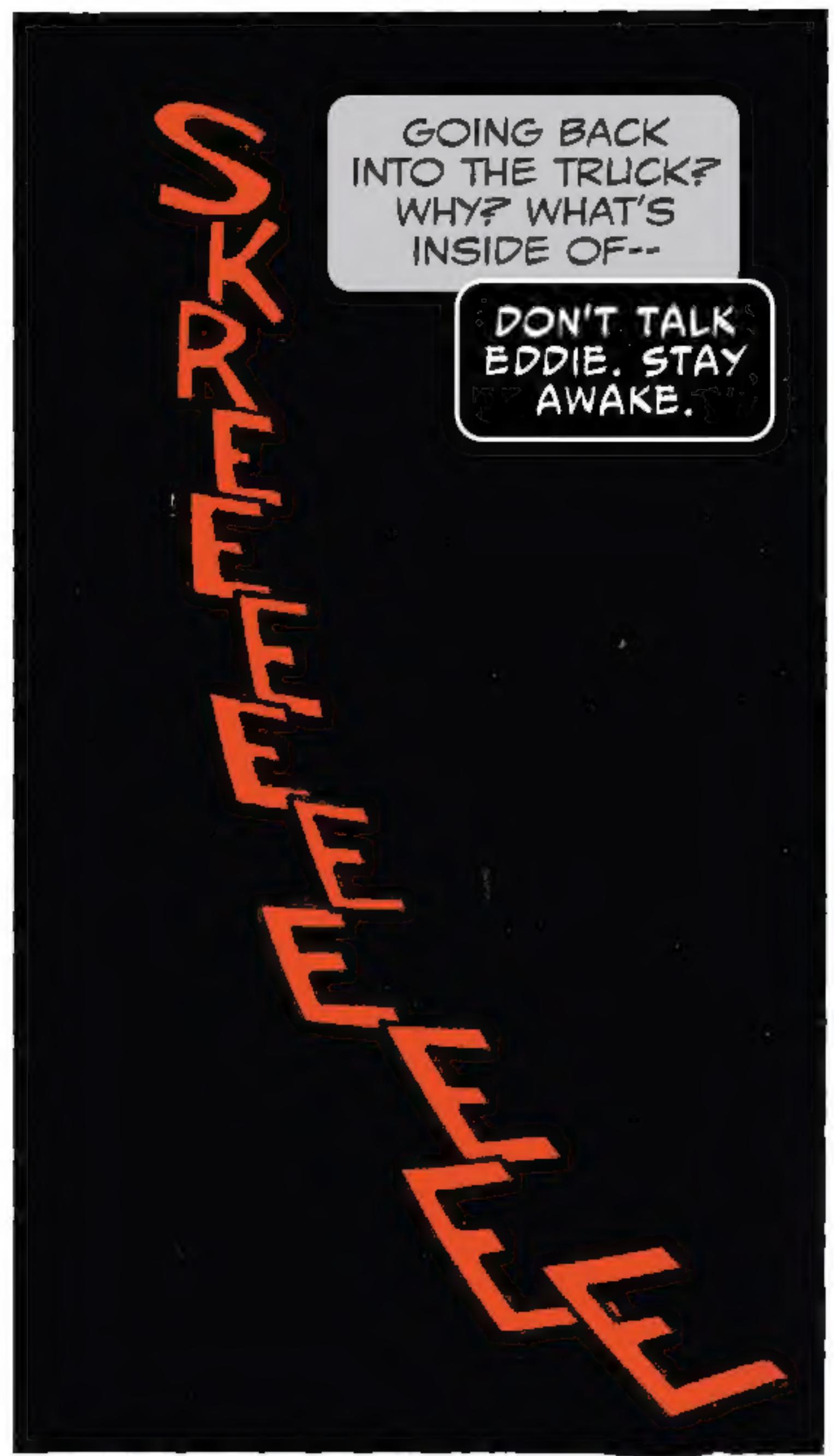
COME ON!
COME ON!


I REALIZE TOO LATE
THAT I'M SCREAMING
INTO A VOID.

AGGGH!

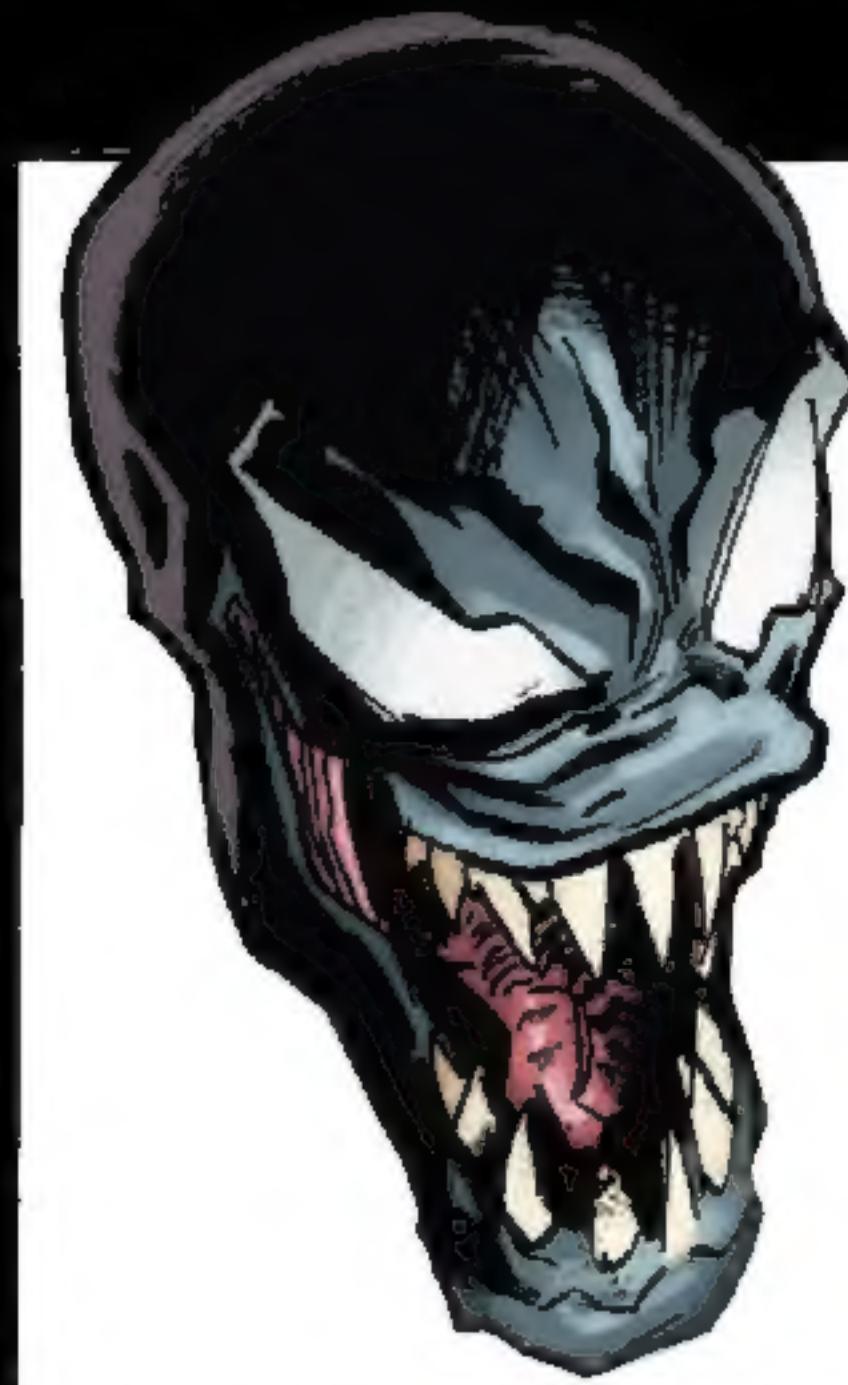
THAT THE ONLY THING
THAT'S COMING...







TO BE CONTINUED...



Eddie's Clubhouse

SEND E-MAILS TO SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM (PLEASE MARK "OKAY TO PRINT"!)

Hello, Venomaniacs! After months of patience, I'm thrilled to welcome you to the newest volume of VENOM!

Believe it or not, the planning for this volume started almost a year ago, when we realized the 30th Anniversary of Venom's first appearance was this year! And not just this year, True Believers, this MONTH!

It was on May 10th, 1988, that the momentous AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #300 went on sale, and in it, Venom made his full debut and became one of Spider-Man's greatest adversaries adversary to date.

We've been celebrating all year, with a terrific 30 Years of Venom variant program featuring some of the best artists in the biz, and even a whole event dedicated to the wicked web-slinger: VENOMIZED. It's a five-issue epic by Cullen Bunn and Iban Coello that sees a whole host of Marvel heroes bonded to klyntar symbiotes. All five issues are on sale now, so if they aren't in your collection, what're you waiting for? Go get 'em!

And that says nothing of the comics mag you hold in your hands – equal parts love letter and birthday card to the sinister symbiote from creators Donny Cates, Ryan Stegman, J.P. Mayer, Frank Martin and Clayton Cowles.

All it took was a single phone call with Donny for me to know that he was the man for the job. If you've seen any of his interviews online, you already know this, but Donny's got an excitement and enthusiasm for the Marvel Universe that knows no bounds. What really surprised me, though, was that that enthusiasm is matched only by his enjoyment of Venom. It's not every day that I meet someone who knows more about Venom than I do, but, here we are, reading a Venom story by someone who does! And, believe me, you ain't seen NOTHIN' yet. Donny's giving this story his all, and you guys won't want to miss a single pulse-pounding page.

And Donny's not the only one who's bringing it for this volume of VENOM. As regular readers are already aware, Ryan Stegman is no stranger to Eddie Brock or his alien alter ego, after the tremendous work he did on THE AMAZING SPIDER-

MAN: VENOM INC, be sure to pick it up if you haven't!

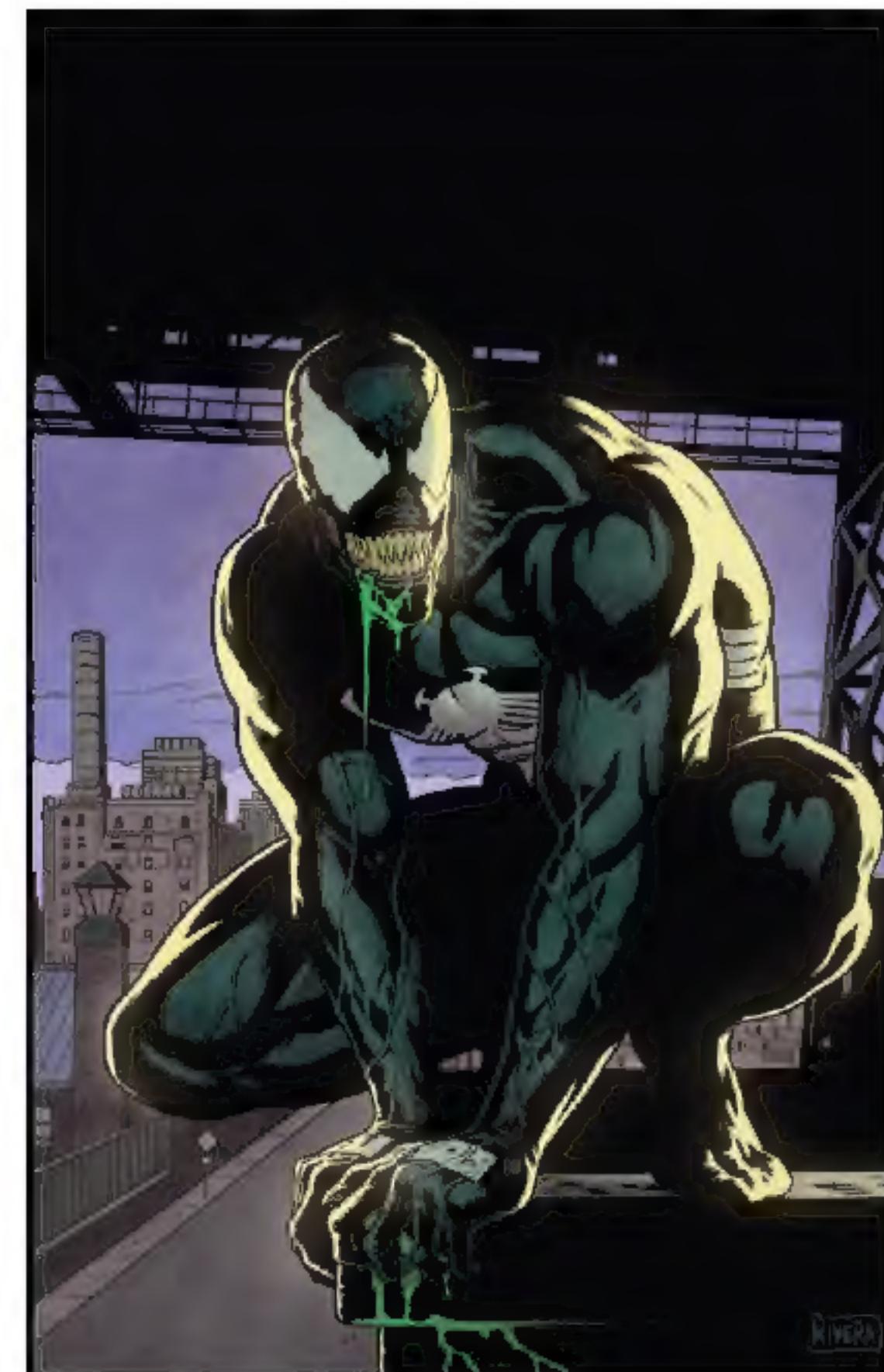
This book also wouldn't be possible without the efforts of J.P. Mayer, our terrific inker. This is actually J.P. and Ryan's first collaboration, but you'd never know it from looking at these pages! You readers out there in mighty Marveldom don't typically get to see the interior artwork from these books in black and white (unless that'd be something you'd be interested in? Tell your shop, or email us at spideyoffice@marvel.com!), and getting to see the pages as Ryan and J.P. each complete them has been an absolute privilege.

Not that the colors are anything to balk at! Frank Martin's our colorist for this little jaunt, and I dunno what kind of deal he made with a back alley fortune teller to get his skills, but I hope he didn't have to give up his soul when he did.

Add Clayton Cowles' lettering (and endless patience with yours truly!) to the mix, and the result is one special comic book – and we hope you all agree!

But those aren't the only talented folks who've joined us for this issue. In addition to the main cover, we've been fortunate enough to have several variant covers from a bevy of awesome illustrators. Let's take a peek, shall we?

First up is a variant cover from PAOLO RIVERA –



TOM GRONEMAN WITH
EMILY NEWCOMEN

ASSISTANT EDITORS

DEVIN LEWIS NICK LOWE
EDITOR EXECUTIVE EDITOR

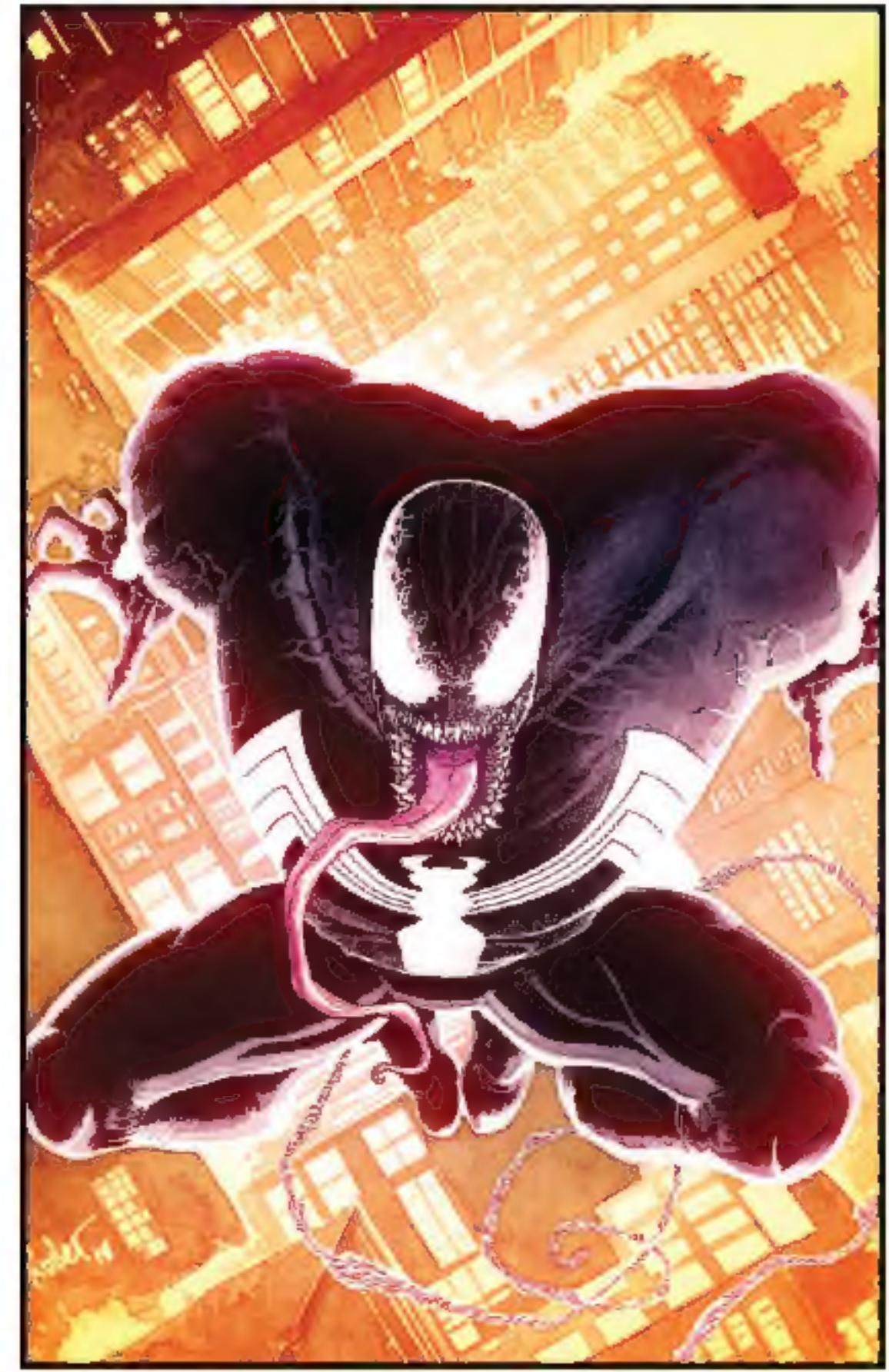
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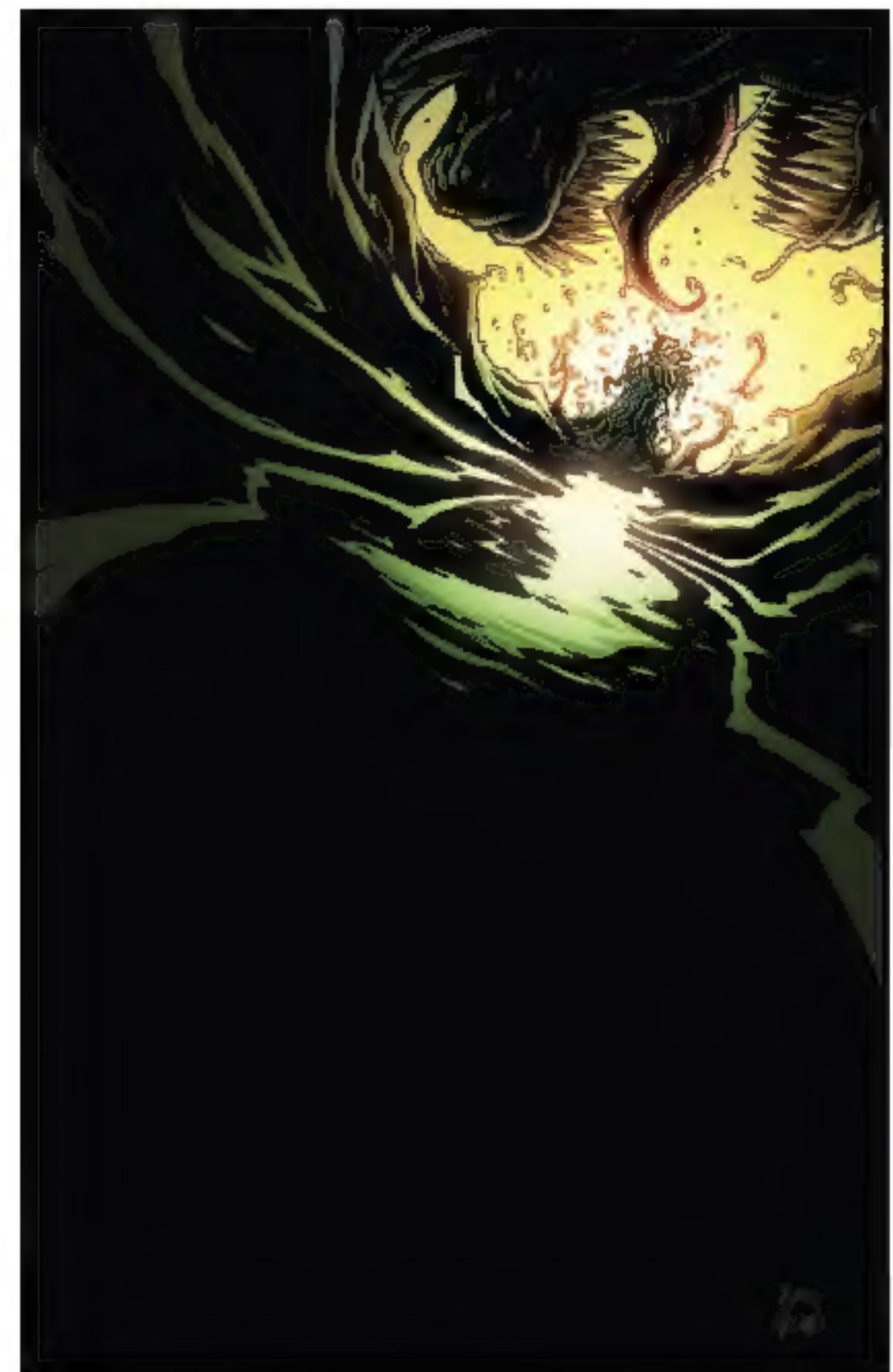
DAN BUCKLEY
PRESIDENT

ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

Also joining us for a variant cover for this issue is recent YOUNG GUNS inductee, Aaron Kuder (who, in case you haven't been reading it, is doing some straight-up superlative work on the GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY and INFINITY titles), and colored by Morry Hollowell. Now, returning Venomaniacs will know that I'm no fan of Venom's tongue, but even I can't deny how badass this cover is –



That's all the space we've got for this one, True Believers! Be back here next month for VENOM #2, as we tumble even farther down the rabbit hole...



Stay sharp!
Devin

@edevinlewis

